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DR. JOHN GIFFORD SKELTON,  
Born April 20th, 1815,  
Died October 31st, 1889.

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in a very sense of  
spirituality, morality,  
of all virtues in action  
and in old age, an  
example of a well age  
and should do well to mankind. I  
have known him and called  
him a philosopher.

DR. A.

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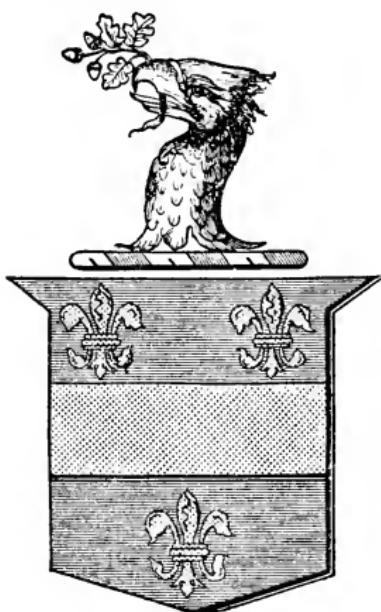
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THE  
SKELTONS OF PAXTON  
POWHATAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA  
AND THEIR CONNECTIONS  
INCLUDING SKETCHES OF THE FAMILIES OF  
SKELTON, GIFFORD AND CRANE



SKELTON OF ARMATHWAITE

BY

P. HAMILTON BASKERVILL, A. M. (U. of Va.)

Author of "Baskerville Genealogy," "Additional Baskerville Genealogy," "The Hamiltons of Burnside, N. C.," and "Andrew Meade of Ireland and Virginia," chiefly from letters, papers and other material furnished by Mrs. Elise Meade (Skelton) Baskervill.

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RICHMOND, VIRGINIA  
OLD DOMINION PRESS, INC., PRINTERS  
1922







THE

# SKELTONS OF PAXTON

POWHATAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA



192219

Dedicated

to the Memory of

Dr. John Gifford Skelton

Born at Paxton, Powhatan Co., Va., April 29th, 1815

Died in Richmond, Va., October 31st, 1889

**PRINTED FOR PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

	PAGE
Authorities .....	xi
Preface .....	xiii
Chapter I. The Skeltons in England.....	1
Chapter II. The Skeltons in New Jersey.....	11
Chapter III. The Skeltons in Virginia.....	33
Chapter IV. Dr. John Gifford Skelton.....	39
Chapter V. The Skelton Coat of Arms.....	49
Chapter VI. The Giffords in England.....	55
Chapter VII. The Giffords in America.....	83
Chapter VIII. The Crane Family in England.....	91
Chapter IX. The Crane Family in America.....	95
Chapter X. The Founding of Newark, N. J.....	103
Index .....	113

---

Skelton Family, Chart I.....	opp. p. 3
Skelton of Armathwaite, Chart II.....	opp. p. 8
Gifford Family, Chart III.....	opp. p. 55
Gunnora Table, Chart IV.....	opp. p. 79
Crane Family, Chart V.....	opp. p. 91



## ILLUSTRATIONS

---

Dr. John <sup>4</sup> Gifford Skelton.....	frontispiece
Skelton Coat of Arms, of Armathwaite.....	title page
Mr. Josiah Skelton.....	22
Mrs. Josiah Skelton.....	25
Graveyard at Paxton.....	26
Dr. John <sup>3</sup> P. Skelton.....	28
Paxton .....	34
Miss Catherine G. Skelton.....	36
Dr. John G. Skelton's Class Card.....	40
Maria Ward .....	44
Gifford Crest .....	53
Mrs. John Gifford .....	85



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*Magna Brittanica*, Lyson, 1763-1819;  
*History of Cumberland*, Mannix;  
*History of Plymouth*, Jewett;  
*History of Cornwall*, Gilbert;  
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## PREFACE

---

Our branch of the Skelton family is one of a very large number, which have continued to baffle all efforts to trace their English origin. For more than fifty years attempts have been made to accomplish this, and later the writer through the kind courtesy of the late Dr. Wm. Nelson, former Corresponding Secretary of the Historical Society of New Jersey, has been enabled to make some research into the Friends or Quaker records, and other records of New Jersey and Pennsylvania with this object in view, but while we have in this way acquired a good deal of information, we have not found the missing link. It is with much reluctance that we are compelled to accept this result.

The family of this name for many centuries occupied a good position among the English gentry and their records are found in most of the standard English books of family history. And letters filed in our Skelton Papers show that some of them have survived to the present day. However, we find that our first traceable ancestor was the honorable judge of the Court of Common Pleas, of the county of Middlesex, New Jersey, in 1774, under the government of King George III, of England, of whom we have also earlier dates, and apparently we will have to be content with that.

We have also many interesting records during several centuries of the family in England, showing their standing and cultivation, of which we include a summary in our history.

Coming down to our own day, originally we included in our book a history of the Meade family and connections, closely connected with the later Skeltons, but considering the large number of Meades not connected with the Skeltons, we have concluded, to make that a separate book.

To the writer the family was embodied in the person of DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> GIFFORD SKELTON, whom he knew well and admired much, and who doubtless inherited many of his admirable and noble characteristics from his ancestors.

Of the two other families described the Giffords have been especially interesting. Of the Norman noblemen of the court of William the Conqueror none was more conspicuous or active than Walter Giffard, Count of Longueville, and later Earl of Buckingham, and the contemporary historians give much space to his deeds and honors. And in the many centuries since that period the Giffords have continued to hold an honorable place among the gentry of England. And of the Crane family, we find in Jasper Crane, the founder of our branch, a very interesting historical character.

However, although we have not succeeded in recording all of the facts, we have been able to make sure of some of them, and perhaps at some other time some one else will succeed in treating the matter more satisfactorily.

This history begun in 1913, or earlier, has been finished and printed in 1922; and this should be borne in mind in reading it, in order to explain and reconcile some apparent anachronisms and repetitions.

A few blank pages have been added to the end of the book, so that each person may record his own line, and any other family history desirable.

P. H. BASKERVILL.

Richmond, Va., 1913-1922.

# THE SKELTON FAMILY











## CHAPTER I

# THE SKELTONS IN ENGLAND

---

Several attempts have been made to trace back our family of Skeltons to England, but while there can be no doubt about their ultimate English origin, the connecting links have not yet been discovered.

In England for more than five hundred years the name has been a familiar one in many counties, particularly Cumberland, York, Devon, and Cornwall, and the people have been among the most respected gentry, especially conspicuous in Cumberland and Devon.

John Skelton, 1460?–1529, was an early satirical poet, supposed to have been born about 1460 in Norfolk or Cumberland. He was conspicuous and at one time Poet Laureate.

Richard Skelton was sheriff of Cumberland in 1405, John Skelton in 1432, and John Skelton, knight, in 1441 and 1451. And in the list of gentry of this county John Skelton and John de Skelton are found. John Skelton, knight, was sheriff of Cumberland in 1633, and George Skelton held the same office in 1520.

In Lyson's *Magna Britannica*, an old classic, Vol. IV, p. xcvi, we find: "This ancient family of Skelton of Armathwaite, Branthwaite, &c., who represented the county [of Cumberland] in Parliament as early as the reign of Edward I [1272-1307], were no doubt originally of Skelton [parish and township]. Richard Skelton sold Armathwaite, which had so long been the seat of his ancestors, in 1712. \* \* \*

"A younger branch were of Branthwaite, as early as the reign

of Henry V [1413-1422], having married the heiress of Branthwaite. General Skelton, the last of the elder line of this branch, died in 1757.

"The Skeltons of High-house were a younger branch of the Branthwaite family. This branch appears to have ended in female heirs in the reign of Charles II [1660-1685]. Richard Skelton, who was 62 years old at the time of Dugdale's visitation in 1665, had five daughters."

And again on page 155, "Skelton [parish], in Leathward, is about six miles from Penrith. The parish is divided into the townships of Skelton, Lamoninto, and Unthank, containing together in 1811 142 houses and 756 inhabitants. \* \* \*

"The Rectory of Skelton was long attached to the manor and amply endowed. \* \* \*

"John Skelton [of Armathwaite] had been several times sheriff, and had represented the county in Parliament in the reign of Henry VI [1422-1461]."

In the *History of Cumberland*, by Mannix, page 268, (Library of Congress), we find; "Armathwaite is a neat and pleasant village, two miles E by N of High Hesket, on the west bank of the Eden [river]. \* \* \* Armathwaite Castle is seated upon a high rock washed by the Eden river and has a modern front of hewn stone, with a new wing consisting of offices. It is erected upon the site of an ancient fortress, occupies a delightful situation amidst the beautiful, diversified scenery, and was for many years the chief seat of the ancient family of Skeltons, one of whom, John Skelton, was Poet Laureate to Henry VIII, and was renowned among men for his poetry and philosophy. Taking holy orders, he was made rector of Diss, in Norfolk, where he was esteemed far fitter for the stage than the pulpit. For his satires on Cardinal Wolsey he was obliged to fly for sanctuary to the 'Abbage of Westminster'." \* \* \*

p. xii. "Armathwaite Castle was eleven miles north of Penrith."

p. 306. "Skelton Parish is about five miles from north to south, and two miles from east to west, \* \* \* contains [1847] 788 souls, and 6335 A. of rateable lands." \* \* \*

"Skelton is a compact village, pleasantly situated on an eminence, six miles N W of Penrith. The church, which is dedicated to Ste. Mary and St. Michael, is an ancient structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and square stone tower, with two bells."

From Jewett's *History of Plymouth*, 1672, p. 230, we get: "Sir John Skelton, Lt. Governor of the Cittadell [sic] dyeth; Coln. Hugh Piper succeeds him."

p. 516. "St. Andrews Church. One of the most important tablets is the 'Citadel Monument,' on which Sir John Skelton, sometime Governor of the Citadel, and his wife, Bridget Prideaux, are represented kneeling at a lecturn." This is accompanied by an engraving representing his memorial tablet, including the two figures kneeling on opposite sides of a lectern, and an inscription describing his family.

Also from Gilbert's *History of Cornwall* we get: "John Skelton, of Bittleford and Landulph Bicar salt-ash (a small village near Plymouth), afterward Sir John Skelton, Kt., was a person of great note in the reign of Charles II."

And in Burke's *Landed Gentry*, 1847, vol. II, p. 1241, we find: "Skelton of Papcastle. Daniel Jones Skelton, Esqr. of Papcastle, co. Cumberland, late a captain in the Royal Artillery, b. 6 Dec., 1783, m. 10 Dec., 1810, Mary Anne Theed, of the Buckingham family of that name, and has issue;

Charles Cornwallis, East India Co's. service, b. 28 May, 1836;

Henry Jones, b. 4th July, 1825;

Anne Eliza, m. 28 Febr., 1844, Wm. Ponsonby, Esqr.;

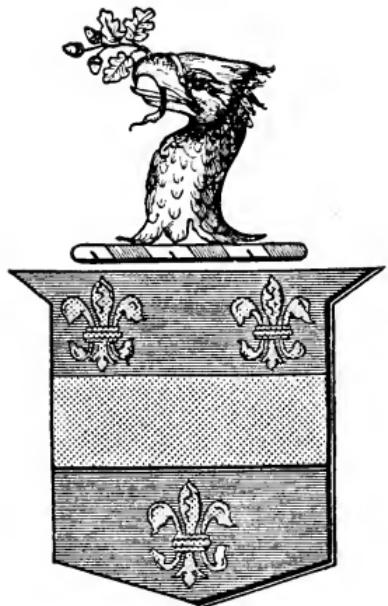
Maria, m. 1 Jan., 1844, Rev. Jas. Burrow;

Mary Dorothea; Frances; Sophia Henrietta."

This is followed by the lineage, the same as in the next paragraph.

We have purchased in England a printed pedigree of the Skeltons of Armathwaite Castle, co. Cumberland, England, taken apparently from a history of Cumberland, with an interesting caption, as follows:

## “PEDIGREE OF THE FAMILY OF SKELTON.



“Lineage. The family of Skelton, of Armathwaite Castle, in Cumberland was one of great antiquity; we find Sir John de Skelton, Knight of the Shire, in the 10th year of the reign of Edward the 2nd [1317]; and so far back as the reign of Richard the 2nd we find by a deed dated November 14, 1391, the fourteenth of that monarch’s reign, that Sir Robert de Mulcaster then granted to Sir Clement de Skelton ‘totam terram meam a threepland.’ There is no regular pedigree on

record except of the five generations certified by John Skelton, Esqr., at Dugdale’s visitation in 1665. The manor of Armathwaite, says Dodd in his History of Carlisle, continued for several ages in the ancient and worshipful family of the Skeltons, many of whom signalled their valour and conduct both in Scotch and French wars; as a token of the superior strength and puissance of the predecessors, they preserve a long sword (equal to that of King Edward the 3rd in Westminster Abbey), which they say was worn and used by them in their attendance upon that king in France.

“Richard Skelton, Esqr., son of John Skelton, Esqr., of Armathwaite, and grandson of Richard Skelton, of the same place, sold the castle and estate of Armathwaite to William Sanderson, Esqr., in 1712. Mr. Skelton left a numerous issue.

“The Skeltons of Branthwaite Hall were a junior branch of the Skeltons of Armathwaite, derived from Richard Skelton,

who was present at Agincourt in 1415 with Henry 5th, and served the office of High Sheriff of Cumberland. He was a younger son of Sir John de Skelton, and married in 1422 the heiress of the Branthwaite estate, and acquired that property, where his descendants continued to reside till about 1727. Its then possessor was Henry Skelton, Esqr., of Branthwaite Hall, General in the army, and Governor of Portsmouth. This officer was engaged in Flanders, and also in Scotland in 1745. In the former country his life was preserved by his aide-de-camp, Captain James Jones, who shot a dragoon as he was on the point of cutting down the general. The latter, who died in 1757, did not forget this, for on the opening of his will it was found that he left Branthwaite Hall and estate to his aide-de-camp and friend, Captain James Jones, of the 3rd Guards. The present family were settled for many generations at St. Bees, where they possessed the estates of High Walton, Low Walton, Lokerigg, Lane Lorking, and Bankend. One branch afterwards removed to Rowrah, of which, with Scallaw and Winder, they became possessed by marriage with the family of Robertson. The other branch settled at Loweswater.

"Arms; Azure, a fesse argent, between three fleur de lis or.

"Crest; A bird's head erased sable, in beak an acorn or, stalked and leaved vert." (For Chart see insert opp. p. 8).

In 1879 William O. Skelton, brother of Mrs. Baskerville, had a correspondence with Dr. John Skelton, of Plymouth, England, in which the latter stated that his (Skelton) family had lived in and around Plymouth for three hundred years, and that at one time Sir John Skelton was commander of the citadel there. We have this letter on file (in our Skelton Papers, Vol. II) and it gives a good deal of interesting information, including the following:

"The family, to which Sir John Skelton belonged, was of considerable antiquity in Cumberland and Yorkshire, its principal seat being Armathwaite Castle [in Cumberland], which had been in the family for a long time before 1712, when it was sold by Richard Skelton. From the time of Edward II (1307-1327) to Henry VIII (1509-1547) the honor of knighthood was held in succession by its members.

"Sir John Skelton was page of honor to Charles II while in exile, and married the daughter of Sir Peter Prideaux. He was knighted and appointed governor of Plymouth citadel by Charles II in 1660, and also Deputy Lieutenant of the county.

[Then follows a history of his sons]

"The arms of Sir John Skelton were granted by Charles II. By virtue of his marriage to Bridget Prideaux, daughter of Lady Christian Grenville, he was allowed to quarter with his arms those of the Earl of Bath. Therefore on the Skelton monuments in the old church of St. Andrews, Plymouth, appears the Skelton coat of arms, so arranged. There are monuments of the Skeltons with those of the Prideaux in the church yard of [name illegible].

"The family were to a great extent deprived of their possessions by Cromwell and declined in prominence. For the last three hundred years they have lived in Plymouth and the neighboring villages. There are tablets in the village of Kingston, near Modbury, with dates of burials of the family for two hundred years.

"A member of this family, Rev. Samuel Skelton, [who will be mentioned later], in very early colonial days (1629) emigrated to New England as chaplain of a company of pilgrims organized under the charter of The 'Plymouth Company'."

Our family may, or may not have been connected with this family. As we can not trace it, we can not tell.

This Dr. John Skelton, of Plymouth, sent also an impression of the coat of arms of his family, which our family have thought was theirs also. It included a shield quartered with various devices, and a crest of a horse's head. But the writer, thinking it more authoritative, has placed the original Armathwaite coat of arms on the title page.

In Yorkshire we find on our map a few miles N. W. of the city of York the town of Skelton, with somewhat over 11,000 inhabitants, and with an interesting early English church. See Baedeker's England.

Also we find that Skelton was the name of one of the seats of the ancient Norman family of Bruce, or Brus, in Yorkshire. In Camden's *Brittania*, vol. III, pp. 251-2, we are told "Below

## CHART II

‘SKELTON OF ARMATHWAITE CASTLE’,

Edmund<sup>1</sup> Skelton, died 1576, m. ——  
———.

"Sir John Skelton was page of honor to Charles II while in exile, and married the daughter of Sir Peter Prideaux. He was knighted and appointed governor of Plymouth citadel by Charles II in 1660, and also Deputy Lieutenant of the county.

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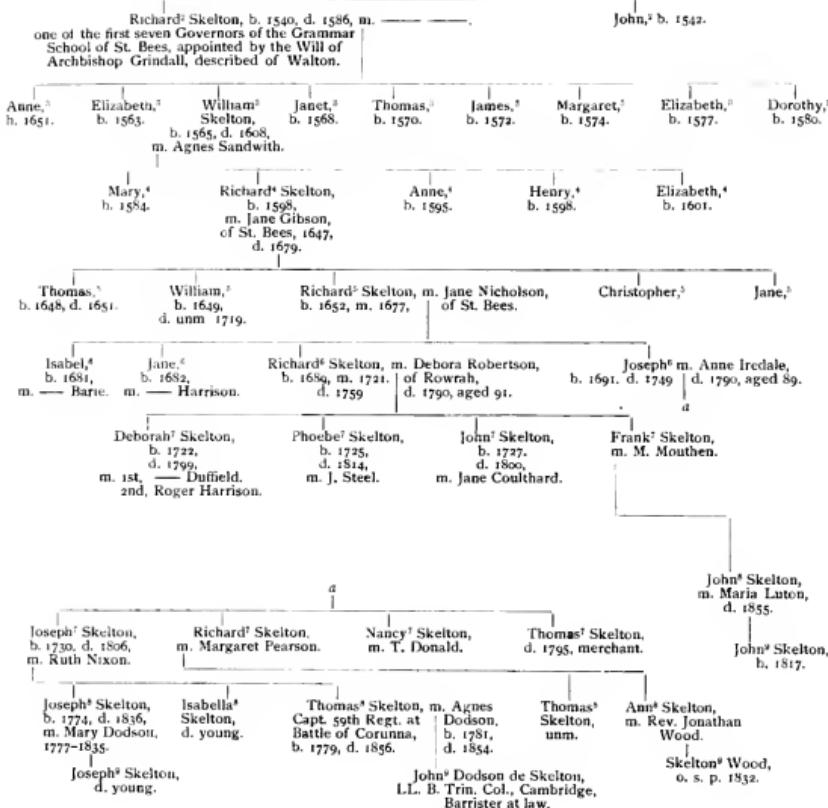
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# CHART II

## "SKELTON OF ARMATHWAITE CASTLE"

Edmund<sup>1</sup> Skelton, died 1576, m. — — —





Skengrave, a little village on the seaside, is Kilton Castle, \* \* \* and almost contiguous to this is Skelton, a castle of the antient family of the barons Brus, descended from Robert Brus, a Norman, who had two sons, Adam, lord of Skelton, and Robert, lord of Anandale in Scotland, from whom the royal family of Scotland is derived."

It is interesting also to note from "The Works of Captain John Smith," of early Virginia fame, edited by Prof. Edwd. Arber, vol. I, p. 256, and vol. II, p. 697, that "Master William Skelton was one of four, who bore the charge of two ships used by Captain John Smith in his voyage to New England in 1614, after he had left Virginia, to take whales, investigate the fishing grounds, and to make trialls of the mines of gold and copper."

And now we come to some of the modern Skeltons in England.

From Walford's *County Families* (English), 1904, p. 57, we get:

Lady Anne Adair Skelton, Daughter of Jas. A. Laurie, Esqr., Prof. of Surgery, University of Glasgow; m. 1867 Sir John Skelton, formerly Vice Presdt. of the Scottish Local Government Board; K. C. B., 1897, d. 1897.

Sir Charles Thomas Skelton, Knt., created 1897; eldest son of Wm. Skelton, of Sheffield, by Elizabeth, daughter of Wm. Tweedale, of Glasgow; b. 1833, \* \* \* J. P. for Sheffield; was Mayor 1894; Deputy Mayor 1895-6-7. Meadow Bank, Sheffield. Reform Club, Sheffield.

In the *Plantagenet Roll*, p. 295, we find a mention of Skelton Abbey, Arklow, co. Wicklow, Ireland, the seat of the Earls of Wicklow. Arklow is a seaport, on St. Georges channel, between Ireland and England.



## CHAPTER II

# THE SKELTONS IN NEW JERSEY

---

There have been several families of Skeltons in this country, apparently not related to each other. In Virginia both in earlier and later colonial times we find one of them, first in James City Co., and later in counties higher up James River, Goochland, Cumberland, and possibly others, who were of very good standing. But we can not find that they were related to us. An interesting account of this family may be found in "The Jones Family" in the Virginia Historical Society library.

Still earlier Rev. Samuel Skelton was among the early settlers in Massachusetts, as early as 1629, where the family was established, and still has representatives of good position, among them Mr. Edward Oliver Skelton, of Boston, a member of the New England Historical Society, and an author of some note. Among his books is "The Story of New England," an interesting little book containing lists of the earliest settlers, including Rev. Samuel Skelton 1629, Benjamin Skelton 1639, and Nathaniel Skelton 1648. They seem in no way related to us. Also we find here Wm. Scudder 1650, George Wright 1637, Elizabeth Scudder 1640, John Scudder and Mrs. John Scudder 1647, names of people associated with the Skeltons in New Jersey. See Mr. E. O. Skelton's letter in our Skelton Papers, vol. II.

Then there was a family of this name settled in Pennsylvania, referred to later, with which we can not trace a relationship, but there may be.

The particular subject of this sketch is "THE SKELTONS OF PAXTON, VA.," "Paxton" being the name of the home and estate, which DR. ENNION WM. SKELTON built and estab-

lished in Powhatan Co., Virginia, in or about 1823. This is where our special interest is centered, and our purpose is to record, as comprehensively as our information allows us, the history of this family antecedent to Paxton, at Paxton, and briefly subsequent to the removal from Paxton. And we are especially interested in the antecedent history.

The history of our family in America extends over a term of about a hundred and eighty years, of which during about sixty years they resided in New Jersey, and after that for about a hundred and twenty years in Virginia, counting to 1920. Of the residence in New Jersey the family have apparently had little information, and our knowledge of it has been acquired chiefly through a search of public records, where we have found here and there isolated references, from which our history is recorded.

Our first information is of JUDGE JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, when he began to buy land in Middlesex Co., N. J., on Stony Brook, a mile or two from Princeton in 1747, from the record of the deed, which will be described later.

In 1877 Ennion<sup>5</sup> W. Skelton, Mrs. Baskerville's oldest brother, on his way to New York, where he resided, stopped in Trenton, N. J., to visit Dr. Charles Skelton of that city. This gentleman, who was very cordial and polite to him, was about seventy years old. He stated that he traced back his ancestry to four brothers named Skelton, who came over from England in the early part of the 18th century and settled in Pennsylvania, in the county of Bucks, opposite Trenton. Of them his ancestor was John<sup>1</sup>, whose son Robert<sup>2</sup> was the father of John<sup>3</sup>, a farmer and teacher, the father of this Dr. Charles<sup>4</sup> Skelton. He never practised his profession, but carried on the shoe business as more profitable. He knew little, if anything of our branch of the family, and thought that the Skeltons of Westmoreland Co., Va., were from another stock. He said that in England the Skelton family produced many ministers and physicians. We can trace no positive connection with these people—there may have been, but we can not find it. The letter of Ennion<sup>5</sup> W. Skelton may be found in volume I, of our Skelton Papers.

An analysis of the last paragraph seems to show that Dr.

Charles<sup>4</sup> Skelton, of Trenton, about 70 years old in 1877, was born about 1807. His father, John<sup>3</sup> Skelton, we may assume, was born about 1770, his grandfather Robert<sup>2</sup> Skelton about 1740, and his great grandfather, John<sup>1</sup> Skelton, in 1700 to 1710, and this accords with the four brothers coming from England in the early part of the 18th century.

And now we take up JUDGE JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, of Middlesex Co., N. J., the first of our ancestors to whom we can definitely and positively trace, and the grandfather of DR. ENNION<sup>3</sup> W. SKELTON, who removed to Powhatan Co., Va., in 1802.

Our information in regard to the family history is contained in many documents, being letters, statements, tables, &c., collected by Mrs. Baskerville, her father, DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> G. SKELTON, now deceased, and her two brothers, E.<sup>5</sup> W. Skelton, and Wm.<sup>5</sup> O. Skelton, the latter also deceased. In addition, within the last few weeks (1914) through the kindness and courtesy of Dr. William Nelson, of Paterson, N. J., Cor. Secty. of the New Jersey Historical Society, we have been enabled to procure from Friends' Records in Philadelphia, Chesterfield, Pa., and other places, from the public records of the Secretary of State of New Jersey, and other sources, quite a mass of matter in regard to the Skeltons, which is quite valuable. Our purpose is to give in a connected narrative the information contained in these disconnected documents. And in order to make this more easily understood, we shall record here some of the very numerous isolated scraps of information, which we have succeeded in getting. The original copies will be found in our Skelton Papers.

In order to show how thorough Dr. Nelson's search for us has been, it is well to mention that he writes, that first he had written "to a young woman who has charge of a lot of New Jersey and Pennsylvania Friends' Records." From this source he has sent us a document of twelve large pages with over forty entries, chiefly from Friends' Records, some of them from the records of the office of the Secretary of State of New Jersey at Trenton, and some of them old newspaper notices of marriages and deaths. This paper may be found in Vol. I of our Skelton Papers.

Next he wrote to two "well informed correspondents of Middlesex Co., N. J.," who sent him information.

Then he examined the "New Jersey Archives," doubtless in the N. J. Hist. Soc. library.

The Friends' Records are those from the "Chesterfield Meeting," Chesterfield being a small town in Burlington Co., N. J., about ten miles, or less, W from Trenton. Next we have records of the "Philadelphia Friends' Meeting," of course in Philadelphia. Then we have some records of the "Falls Friends' Meeting, Pennsylvania." I find in my gazeteer "Falls, Wyoming Co.," a very small place of 107 inhabitants now. This seems far away. There may have been at that time a place of this name nearer. We find a Chesterfield record of the birth of JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON in 1720, made evidently in the latter part of his life, as with it is recorded the birth of his second wife Hannah (Priest) on Apl. 8, 1737. So that this does not indicate that he was born, or lived in early life there. Next we find at Paxton on the tomb of JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> SKELTON an inscription showing that he was born in 1741, and that his father, JUDGE JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON was married to his first wife at least as early as 1740. We shall find later that he married his second wife, Hannah Priest, in 1760. Then we have many items from Friends' Records, Court Records, &c., showing in brief that he bought lands in New Windsor township, Middlesex Co., N. J., as early as 1747 and later; that he was Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the county of Middlesex, N. J., in 1774; and that he died there in 1778, when his will was recorded. This short statement is made as a starting point, a firm basis of which we are certain. Now we will take up the earlier information which involves more or less of uncertainty.

1. Our first record is of Robert Skelton as a member of a jury on June 28th, 1692. (Old Times in Monmouth). Then in the court proceedings in (Trenton) New Jersey in 1698 (doubtless in Middlesex Co.) Robert Skelton and his wife, Alice, were named. He died probably in the early part of 1704. The list of his goods and chattels was quite lengthy. Letters of administration were granted to Alice Jones (sic), his widow (Salter's History of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, N. J.). These are

from Mr. Wm. G. Stanard's notes on file. This was apparently too early for Robert<sup>2</sup> Skelton, grandfather of Dr. Charles<sup>4</sup> Skelton, already mentioned. We have failed to make any connection.

2. Our next item comes from our new Friends' Records, those of the Falls (Penn.) Friends' Meeting. We find that Gennet Shelton (probably Skelton) and John Barwis on June 1st, 1705, published "their intentions of marriage, she the second time, and are left at liberty to proceed." We can make nothing of this.

3. Next from the same source we find that "John Skelton on Jany. 4th, 1713, makes complaint against James Streeter as owing him." Again "John Skelton and Jane Fearlamb on July 2nd, 1714, proposed their intentions of marriage, she the second time, and the meeting leaves them at liberty to proceed."

4. Again on November 6th, 1719, "John Skelton hath sustained a severe loss by fire and stands in need of assistance. Therefore it is agreed that a subscription be taken." We can not certainly place him—can only conjecture. He was too early to be the father of Dr. Charles<sup>4</sup> Skelton. He may have been Judge Joseph<sup>1</sup> Skelton's father, but we can not tell.

5. Next from the Philadelphia Friends' Records (copy at Penn. Hist. Library) we find that on March 26th, 1715, "Abigail Skelton was married to John Hudson, turner, of Philadelphia," and that on May 11, 1745, Mary Skelton, and John Robins were married. These two, Abigail and Mary Skelton, may have been members of the family of JUDGE JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, the former an aunt, and the latter a sister, but this is a mere guess.

6. Again in 1735 Thomas Skelton advertised in the Philadelphia Gazette "his four wheeled chaise in Chestnut street." See Dr. Nelson's letter.

These are all the records that we have before JUDGE JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, and we can not make anything definite of them, except that the family (probably the same) were in New Jersey and Pennsylvania as early as 1692 and later. Some time we may find a solution.

Now taking up again Judge JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, we have stated

that he was born in 1720, was first married not later than 1740, was again married in 1760, and died in 1778. We do not know who his *first wife* was, or anything about her.

Our next information is taken from a series of deeds, wills, &c., found in the records of the Secretary of State of New Jersey, in Trenton. I may state here that JUDGE JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON's residence was at or near Scudder's or Skelton's Mills, near Stony Brook, in Middlesex Co., N. J., near Princeton. This is family knowledge, definitely sustained by later information. From these records we get the following:

1. Deed of April 1st, 1747, from Josiah Davison, miller, of the Corporation of New Brunswick, Province of New Jersey, conveying for £155/12 two lots of land in the township of New Windsor and west side of river, on Stony Brook and Millstone River, opposite the mill of said Davison, to JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON.
2. Deed of Feby. 15, 1749, from Josiah Davison to JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON a lot of land and meadow [doubtless in same location], consideration £132.
3. Deed of Nov. 9th, 1749, from Peter Kemble, of New Brunswick, Middlesex Co., N. J., to JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, of Windsor township, Middlesex Co., a lot in New Brunswick, consideration £79/8/7.
4. Deed of June 24th, 1751, from John Horner, "of Princeton, Middlesex Co." to JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, "of said place," "land in Princetown, 100 acres, situated along Stony Brook."
5. Deed from James Davison, of Windsor, Middlesex Co., to JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, of the same, five lots and a meadow there, consideration £355, date May 12, 1761.
6. Deed of April 29th, 1765, from Josiah Davison to Joseph Scudder [first appearance of the Scudders] and JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, executors of Josiah Davison, deceased.
7. Deed of April 26th, 1766, from Josiah Davison (Jr.) to Jacob [sic] Scudder and JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, executors of Josiah Davison, &c.
8. Deed of May 1st, 1764, from James Davison, of Middlesex, to JOSEPH SKELTON, of same, land in Middlesex along Millstone River, 59½ acres.

9. Deed of May 16, 1772, from JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, Joseph Alden, and Jacob Schenck, auditors appointed by the Inferior Court of Common Pleas at Perth Amboy for Co. of Middlesex, to Mathew Rue, of said county, 63 acres in Windsor.

10. On May 29th, 1762, JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON and Joseph Alden, both of Middlesex, N. J., are made guardians of Thomas Pierce of Windsor.

11. "March 19th, 1774, before me, JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas for Co. of Middlesex, N. J., John Chamberlin, Esqr., a subscribing evidence (?) duly sworn &c.      signed before JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON."

12. Will of JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, dated Augt. 21st, 1778, and proved October 3rd, 1778; legatees, wife Hannah, and seven children (whom he does not name); executors son JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> SKELTON, Abel James, and Henry Drinker(?); witnesses, Joseph Alden, Wm. Scudder, and Jacob Schenk. Joseph Alden, and Wm. Scudder affirmed Oct. 3, 1778; Jacob Schenk, and JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> SKELTON sworn Oct. 3, 1778.

13. Inventory of his estate made Sept. 16, 1778.

14. Deed April 19, 1779, from JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> SKELTON, acting executor and devisee of JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, late of New Windsor, Middlesex Co., N. J., and Hannah Skelton [wife], Mary<sup>3</sup> Skelton, Matthew Clarke and Sarah<sup>4</sup>, his wife, Elizabeth<sup>2</sup> Skelton, Thomas<sup>3</sup> Skelton, and Joseph<sup>2</sup> Skelton, the other devisees of said JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, deceased, by the said JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> SKELTON their attorney, to John Hancock & George Hancock of Mansfield township, Burlington Co., conveying 63½ acres of land in Windsor township, Middlesex Co., along Millstone River, for the consideration of £1971/16/6.

We are building up the history of JUDGE JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, and now we will take up our Friends' Records again.

1. Chesterfield Friends' Record, L, 100—

JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, born — mo. 8, 1720;  
Hannah, his wife, born 4 mo. 8, 1737.

2. Same, B. B. 1, page 203. July 6th, 1754. Philadelphia Monthly Meeting sends to Chesterfield a certificate of removal

for JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, "who removed from here while young and hath since settled within the verge of your meeting."

3. Same, B. p. 289. July 3, 1760. JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON laid before this meeting a certificate from Phila. mo. meeting recommending him to the care of this meeting, which was received.

4. Same, B. p. 295. November 6, 1760. JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON and Hannah Priest appeared the first time and declared their intentions of marriage with each other. John Clerk and Joseph Horner are desired to make the usual enquiry in such cases and report. (Please observe that John Horner figured in the 4th deed).

5. Same, B. p. 296. December 4, 1760. JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, and Hannah Priest appeared the second time, and he declared they continued their intention of marriage; and nothing appearing to obstruct, they are left to their liberty to accomplish their said intentions.

6. Same, B. p. 297. The marriage of JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON and Hannah Priest reported orderly—Jany. 1, 1761.

Now to sum up the evidence, we find that JUDGE JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON was born in 1720; where he was born and who his parents were, we do not know.

Next we know that he was married first in 1740, or earlier, as shown by the birth of his son, JOSIAH<sup>2</sup>, our great grandfather, in 1741. We do not know, whom he married, or where she lived. The transfer given to him by the Philadelphia Friends' Meeting in 1754 indicates that he had removed from the bounds of the Philadelphia Meeting "while young." It does not state how long it was after this that he "settled within the verge" of the Chesterfield Meeting. We only know that in 1747 he had begun to buy lands in Windsor township, Middlesex Co., on Stony Brook. Apparently he had not been in close affiliation with the Chesterfield Meeting until 1760, when he presented his transfer from Philadelphia. And the same year, November 6th, he and Hannah Priest appeared before the meeting and announced their intention to be married. It looks as if his intention to be married had something to do with the delivery of the transfer, Hannah being evidently a member of the "meeting." We do not know, when his first wife died, but

apparently the children mentioned in his will of 1778 were all hers, as Joseph<sup>2</sup>, the youngest, was a lieutenant in the Revolutionary war, as stated by Dr. John<sup>3</sup> P. Skelton.

JUDGE JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON and his family were "Friends," as was the case with his son JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> and his family.

His first purchase of land on Stony Brook was in 1747, and he made between that time and 1765 four other purchases of land here, and one of property in New Brunswick. His transactions were chiefly with the Davisons, who owned Davison's Mills there. These were apparently included in the purchases, and were later called Skelton's Mills, Scudder's Mills, and Stockton's Mills. And before the move to Princeton JUDGE JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON and his son JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> were merchant millers. He must have had considerable means to have paid for so much real property. The sale of land soon after his death realized £1971, almost \$10,000, and as money is said by Bruce, the historian, to have been five times as valuable then as now, this would represent about \$50,000 of present value.

Our 10th court record shows that in or before 1774 he had been appointed Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the county of Middlesex. This must have been after May 16, 1772, when he was appointed "auditor" by the court, showing that he could not have been judge at that time.

As shown by his will dated Augt. 21st, and proved Oct. 3rd, 1778, he died in that year. But his wife Hannah, as shown by a notice in the Trenton Federalist of Febry. 21st, 1825, survived until Febry. 15th of that year. In his will he mentioned his wife Hannah, and son JOSIAH<sup>2</sup>, but not the other children by name. But their names are given in a deed of April 19th, 1779; only six, and not seven as stated in the will. One of the children may have died in the interval.

The late DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> G. SKELTON, father of MRS. BASKERVILL, in a letter to his son, Ennion<sup>5</sup>, dated April 15th, 1876, which we have in our papers, said: "I never heard my father (DR. ENNION<sup>3</sup> WM. SKELTON) say anything about his grandfather (JUDGE JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON), but while a student in Philadelphia I boarded for one winter in the house of a Mr. Hier, whose father then lived with him (about 1834). The latter was a

very old man, who was reared in the neighborhood of Princeton, N. J. He asked me one day if I had relations near that place, said he recollects JOSIAH SKELTON, who owned mills, afterwards known as Stockton's Mills. From the dates he gave I concluded this must have been my grandfather. He said he recollects also the father of JOSIAH<sup>2</sup>, and could then show me the place, at which he had lived, "near Stony Brook," before the Revolutionary War. While young he had been at his house, and recollects his appearance well; that he was then advanced in years and about my (DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> G. SKELTON'S) size; was highly respected, and known as "JUDGE SKELTON." This was in colonial times, and in the reign of George III.

This is a case of remarkable personal historic evidence, or testimony, extending back about a hundred and fifty years to a period before the American Revolution. DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> G. SKELTON's letter is before the writer (1920), dated 1876, forty-four years ago, he then being over sixty years old. He tells us his positive recollection of what he was told in his youth (1834) by "a very old man," with whom he was in constant social intercourse. And this "very old man" related events, which happened, and conditions, which existed at least sixty years before, in 1774 or earlier. And this fully corroborates our other information of events of this period, of which DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> G. SKELTON did not have any knowledge.

We find in Lossing's Field Book of the Revolution, in the Virginia State Library, an interesting reference to the section of Middlesex Co., N. J., where JUDGE JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON and his family lived. Lossing's narrative is the record of what he saw in a trip through this country in December, 1848, and describes the conditions at that time.

A map on page 28 of volume II of that book shows the location of the Battle of Princeton on January 2nd, 1777, where General George Washington was present, and General Mercer of the Americans was killed. A fine painting by John Trumbull of this battle, showing Genl. Washington, may be found in the Yale Museum of Fine Arts, New Haven. This little battle occurred on Stony Brook, and apparently just at the mills, where, "the old road to Trenton" crosses the brook about a mile

and a quarter, we are told, from Princeton. On the map is shown the residence of Judge Richard Stockton, called "Morven," who at one time owned the mills; and the old Quaker meeting house, of which there is a picture on page 27; also "Morven," in the suburbs of Princeton, the home of Commodore Robert F. Stockton during the Revolutionary War. It is supposed that Mr. Benjamin W. Finney, who married Miss Mary<sup>4</sup> Skelton, sister of DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> G. SKELTON, named his place in Powhatan Co., Va., after this residence.

It seems to be undoubtedly true that Worth's Mills on Lossing's map were the same, which earlier were called Davison's Mills, then Scudder's Mills, then Skelton's Mills, then Stockton's Mills, owned and operated at one time by the SKELTONS, and that the Friends' meeting house nearby, shown on the map and in the picture, was one of their places of worship. They also worshipped at "the old meeting house at Crosswick," twelve or fifteen miles distant, as is stated by Mrs. Louisa<sup>4</sup> Skelton Lewis in a letter to Miss Catharine<sup>4</sup> Skelton ("Ogie") now in the possession of Mrs. John L. Williams. She speaks of "the old meeting house or church (at Crosswick), where our *Skelton ancestors* worshipped." Their meetings were also at Allentown (about five miles distant). A picture of the Crosswick meeting house also is shown on page 12 of Lossing's book.

Crosswick is in Burlington Co., as is Chesterfield, Allentown in Monmouth Co., and Princeton in Mercer Co. just across the Raritan River from Middlesex Co., where the property of JUDGE SKELTON was situated. It may be that the counties have changed and new ones formed since that time.

There is also a picture of the stone bridge across Stony Brook at Worth's Mills and of the mills.

Dr. Joseph Scudder, mentioned in our 5th deed, was a great friend of the SKELTONS, and a practising physician, and was related to them through his cousin, MARY WRIGHT, wife of JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> SKELTON. He moved to Powhatan Co., Va., some years before 1802, being then an old man, and established himself in practice there. As will be seen later, he induced young DR. ENNION<sup>3</sup> WM. SKELTON to join him there in that year (1802), and practice with him. Later when Dr. Scudder re-

turned to New Jersey, DR. ENNION<sup>3</sup> WM. SKELTON succeeded him in his practice.

JUDGE JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON is said in his will to have had seven children, of whom he names only Josiah, the oldest. But we get the names of six of them from the deed of April 19, 1779, in which the names of the devisees are given as JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> SKELTON, executor, and Hannah Skelton, [wife], Mary<sup>2</sup> Skelton, Matthew Clarke and Sarah<sup>2</sup>, his wife, (evidently a married daughter), Elizabeth<sup>2</sup> Skelton, Thomas<sup>2</sup> Skelton, and Joseph<sup>2</sup> Skelton. Hannah was his wife, and she survived him until 1825. One child may have died between the making of the will and the date of this deed. Thus his children were:

1. JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> SKELTON, b. 1741, d. 6/13/1821, m. MARY WRIGHT, Mrs. Baskerville's great grand parents;
2. Mary<sup>2</sup> Skelton, m. Prof. Minto, of Princeton College;
3. Sarah<sup>2</sup> Skelton, m. Matthew Clarke;
4. Elizabeth<sup>2</sup> Skelton, m. Walter<sup>3</sup> Skelton;
5. Thomas<sup>2</sup> Skelton, prob. m. Eliz. Lowery 1/18/1772;
6. Joseph<sup>2</sup> Skelton, was 1st Lieut. in Rev. War.

We have little history of any of these except our ancestor, JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> SKELTON, the oldest. And here we resume our series of records:

1. "Chesterfield Friends' Records, B. 372, Augt. 7, 1766. JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> SKELTON by his father requests to come under the care of Friends." (This was six years after the second marriage of the father, and Josiah was twenty-five years old.)

2. "Same, B. 420, Febry. 1, 1770. Mary<sup>2</sup> Skelton having marryed (sic) contrary to our discipline and by an hireling minister, friends having discharged their duty in labouring with her, and it proved ineffectual, this meeting therefore disowns her being a member."

3. "Same, B. 442, Augt. 1, 1771. Mary<sup>2</sup> Skelton laid before this meeting an acknowledgment condemning her marriage contrary to our order and that by an hireling priest, which was read and received."

4. New Jersey Archives, Vol. XXII, Jany. 18th, 1772. "Thomas Skelton, of Amwell [I can not find it], and Elizabeth Lowery, of same, were married."



JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> SKELTON,  
born 1741, died 1821.



5. Same, October 26, 1772. "Susannah Skelton, of Bucks, Penn., and Isaac Hogland, of Hunterdon, N. J., married."

6. Same, April 29th, 1779. "Anna Skelton and William Scudder [no places of residences given] were married."

7. Office of Secty. of State (N. J.), A. V. Deeds, 148. Deed of June 1, 1779, from Robt. Davison of New Brunswick to JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> SKELTON land on Cranberry Neck along Millstone River.

8. Same 162. Deed of April 1, 1790, from Saml. Bayles of New Brunswick to JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> SKELTON, both of Middlesex Co. [sic], confirming a deed given to Joseph Skelton in 1774, to JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> SKELTON, executor, land in Cranberry Neck on the road that leads from said Skelton's Mills to Cranberry Town.

9. Same. JOSEPH SKELTON was first lieutenant in the 4th Battalion, 2nd Establishment, under the command of Coln. Ephraim March in the Revolutionary War. This command was raised in the county near Princeton.

10. Chesterfield's Friends' Records, D, 193. October 8, 1805. MARY SKILTON, wife of JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> SKILTON (should be Skelton) had a certificate of removal granted to Philadelphia monthly meeting for Northern District.

11. Trenton Federalist, of Febry. 21th, 1825, Hannah Skelton (died) near Princeton on Febry. 15, 1825, member of Society of Friends, aged 90 years.

March 30th, 1914. In apparently a final letter from Dr. Wm. Nelson, just received, he informs me that farther research has shown the following:

"In Dr. Stillwell's *Historical and Genealogical Miscellany* there is but one note of the Skelton family, viz: "1717, 17th of 11th mo. (in margin 1717/8, 9th of 1st mo.) John Woolley, of Shrews, md. to Patience Lippitt, of Middletown, at house of Sarah Lippitt, in Middletown; witness Alce [sic] Scilton."

"Yesterday morning I received from Mrs. Satterthwaite additional Skelton notes, as follows:

"Princeton Graveyard inscription,

'Elizabeth Skelton died Oct. 27th, 1826, in her 75th year.' [This places her birth about 1751, and apparently she must

have been Elizabeth, daughter of Judge Joseph<sup>1</sup> Skelton, who is said to have married Walter<sup>3</sup> Skelton (see p. 30].

'Mary C. Skelton, born 12-25-1812, died 7-15-1831.'

"And from the Presbyterian churchyard at Lawrenceville (in Mercer Co., N. J., about halfway between Trenton and Princeton, about five miles from each) 'Esther Skelton, dau. of Thomas and Elizabeth Skelton, died July 24th, 1783, aged 6 yrs. 1 m.'

Dr. Wm. Nelson has certainly been very kind in getting all this information for us, and we feel very much indebted to him.

Postscript, Nov. 20th, 1916. In response to a letter I am informed by Mrs. Nelson that Dr. Nelson died on Augt. 10th, 1914. He was a kind hearted gentleman, willing and ready to assist a stranger in historical research, and well equipped for the requirements of his office.

And now taking the series of records just preceding, and leaving JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> SKELTON to the last, we find that Mary<sup>2</sup> Skelton, daughter of JUDGE JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, who married Prof. Minto, of Princeton University, had trouble with her Quaker friends in regard to her marriage. Doubtless Prof. Minto was not a Friend, and then they were married by a "hireling minister," who was paid for his services, which seems to have given grave offence. She was disowned as a member, and afterwards upon acknowledgment of her error apparently was reinstated. It was with her and Dr. Minto that DR. ENNION<sup>3</sup> W. SKELTON lived during his college life at Princeton, and it is also stated by Rev. Jefferson Lewis in his paper filed in our Skelton Papers, in Vol. I, that Walter<sup>3</sup> Skelton, a great nephew of JUDGE JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, was brought up by them at Princeton. This Walter<sup>3</sup> is also said to have married a daughter of JUDGE JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON, but her name is not given. See Rev. Jefferson Lewis' statement on page 30.

Next Thomas Skelton, of Amwell, who married Elizabeth Lowery, also of Amwell, on Jany. 18th, 1772, may or may not have been Thomas<sup>2</sup>, son of JUDGE JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON. The date suits him well. We can not find "Amwell," and the copyist may have misread the word.





MRS. JOSIAH SKELTON,  
née Mary Wright,  
born 1751, died 1824.

We can not locate Susannah Skelton, and Anna Skelton. Their names are not on our table.

Joseph Skelton, who was first lieutenant in the Revolutionary War, is said to have been the youngest child of JUDGE JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> SKELTON.

Hannah Skelton, who died in 1825, aged 90 years, must have been the widow of JUDGE SKELTON. She is said to have been born in 1737, which would make her 88 years old at her decease, but that is near ninety. Newspaper accounts are not absolutely accurate in regard to such matters. Her residence "near Princeton" corresponds.

JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> SKELTON was the oldest son, and the executor of his father's will. He continued to buy land in the same vicinity as shown by the deed of 1779. And again in 1790 the deed confirming a transaction of his father calls him "miller" showing that he was still carrying on the business of merchant miller at Skelton's Mills. The Friends' record of Oct. 8th, 1805, seems to indicate that at that time he and his wife removed to Philadelphia, but nothing more is known about that. Later, we do not know when, they removed to the home of their son, DR. ENNION<sup>3</sup> W. SKELTON, because, at least in part, he was a sufferer from rheumatism, and it was thought the milder climate would be better for him.

He married MARY WRIGHT, of Allentown, Pa., (not N. J.), who was the cousin of Dr. Joseph Scudder, who preceded DR. ENNION<sup>3</sup> WM. SKELTON to Powhatan Co., Va. We know nothing more of her family. They continued to be Friends all their lives, although their son, ENNION, was an Episcopalian.

Sometime after 1805 they removed to Virginia, as stated, and lived there many years. Their grandchildren, DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> G. SKELTON and his sister, Miss Catharine<sup>4</sup> Skelton, remembered him as a gentle, kindly disposed, affectionate old gentleman, and friends remembered his wife as a charming old lady. During the latter part of his life his health was not good, and being much confined to the house in winter he amused himself with cabinet making. He made beautiful pieces of mahogany furniture, such as candle stands, chests of drawers, a beautiful "grandfather's clock", and a handsome roller top desk and

book case combined, now the property of his great grand daughter, Mrs. Charlotte R. McVeigh. He tried to give each grandchild a piece of his work, and some of them are to this day in good condition. When DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> G. SKELTON removed to Richmond, the clock was brought along. But on an occasion, when the works were taken out for repairs, the case was put in the basement, and when they looked for it, they found that a servant had broken it up, and used it for kindling wood.

MR. AND MRS. JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> SKELTON both died and were buried at Paxton, he in 1821, aged eighty years, and she in 1824, aged seventy-three years.

This information is taken from DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> G. SKELTON'S letters, in which he stated that he remembered and knew them well, having been born in 1815.



THE GRAVEYARD AT PAXTON, VA.

The cemetery at Paxton is in good condition and the monument over their graves with the inscriptions uninjured (1913).

Mrs. Charlotte Randolph Skelton, first wife of DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> G. SKELTON, was also buried there, and the monument was erected

a good many years ago by Mrs. John L. Williams in memory of her grandparents and her mother. We present a picture of the monument.

We present also copies of portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Skelton, by Saint Memin, belonging to Mrs. Charlotte R. McVeigh. The name of the artist may not be familiar to many, and it is interesting to know something of his history.

A French artist, Charles Balthazar Julien Fevret de Saint Memin, and his father, Etienne, men of birth and education, came to America from France as refugees in 1797. He invented a method of taking profile portraits, engraved on copper, and became famous. He spent his time in various cities, in New York, Burlington, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, and in 1808 in Richmond, and Norfolk, and executed many portraits, some of them of conspicuous people, before returning to France in 1814. Many of these remain and are considered of great value.

The engraved portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Skelton are printed on rose pink colored paper. We suppose they were executed during the stay of the artist in Richmond in 1808, as Mr. and Mrs. Skelton were at Paxton at that time.

All of the Saint Memin portraits are said to be in profile except two. In social position he was a gentleman and a nobleman.

For a more extended notice of him we refer to *Two Centuries of Costume in America*, by Alice Morse Earle, 1910, page 749 and f., in the writer's library, where copies of several of his portraits are given.

Before taking up the next generation we will record here the rest of the historical extracts received from Dr. Nelson, of the N. J. Hist. Soc.

1. New Jersey State Gazette of Augt. 22nd, 1829. Died on the 19th inst. Joseph H. Skelton, Esqr., in his 45th year, an inhabitant of Princeton.

2. Secty. of States office (N. J.), 11384 L of Wills. Inventory of Joseph H. Skelton, of township of West Windsor, Middlesex Co., N. J., made Sept. 7, 1829, by Benj. Alden and Joseph Horner—Saml. Nicholson and Robt. E. Horner affirmed as administrators on Sept. 8th, 1829."

3. Friends' Record, Phila. Monthly Meeting (copy at Penn. Historical Library). "Susan S. Skelton died April 13th, 1839, aged 78 years."

4. Secty. of State of N. J., 2621 p. of Wills. Alexander Skelton, of Paterson, N. J., his will—Executor George Curry of Paterson; wife Eliza Jane Skelton; grandson Charles Edmund, son of my son Charles (youngest grandson); grandsons James, son of my son James, Robert, son of my son Edmund; Alexander and Charles Edmund, sons of my son Charles; granddaughters Jennie, Eliza, Susie, Grace, and Flora, daughters of my son Charles; and Daisy, daughter of my son Edmund. Will made 29 Sept., 1884; proved 27 Oct., 1884. George Currie sworn as executor same date. Inventory March 17, 1899, by Eliza J. Skelton, adminx. with will attached, and says "no goods, chattels, rights, credits, or effects."

We have no means of knowing who these people are. The entries are made to make the record complete, and some one else may know. They are interesting to show that there were Skeltons there at that time.

JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> AND MARY (WRIGHT) SKELTON had issue as follows:

1. DR. ENNION<sup>3</sup> WILLIAM SKELTON, b. Sept. 12th, 1779, died Nov. 4th, 1836, m. in March, 1803, CATHARINE WALDRON GIFFORD, b. Jany. 16, 1849, were the parents of DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> GIFFORD SKELTON, and will be mentioned later;

2. Elizabeth<sup>3</sup> Skelton, m. Prof. Hopkins of Princeton College;

3. Josiah<sup>3</sup> Skelton, who lived many years in Pittsburg, where he was a glass manufacturer, and afterwards went West; he married —— Osman;

4. Dr. John<sup>3</sup> P. Skelton, a practising physician, who lived a long time in Brooke Co., Va., and when old lived with his son-in-law, Caleb Lee, near Pittsburg, Pa., where he died in 1856. We present a picture of him, copied from an old photograph.

Professor and Elizabeth<sup>3</sup> (Skelton) Hopkins had three daughters, Elizabeth<sup>4</sup>, Margaretta<sup>4</sup>, and Adelaide<sup>4</sup>. After leaving Princeton they lived in Philadelphia, where he kept a book store. After the death of Mrs. Hopkins he moved to South



DR. JOHN<sup>3</sup> P. SKELTON,  
from an old photograph.



Carolina. One of the daughters, either Margaretta or Adelaide, married a lawyer of New York City.

Elizabeth<sup>3</sup> Skelton embroidered a white counterpane as a bridal present to the wife of DR. ENNION<sup>3</sup> W. SKELTON. This belonged to Miss Julia Finney, and at her death she gave it to Mrs. Jno. L. Williams, formerly Maria W. Skelton.

With regard to the families of Josiah<sup>3</sup> Skelton and Dr. John<sup>3</sup> P. Skelton we copy the following statement sent to the late Dr. John<sup>4</sup> G. Skelton by the late Rev. Jefferson Lewis, of Burlington, N. J., who married Louisa<sup>4</sup> Skelton, sister of Dr. John<sup>4</sup> G. Skelton.

"The following family record was furnished to Rev. Jefferson Lewis by Caleb and Margaret Skelton Lee in the spring of 1856 at their home on the Alleghany river, above Pittsburg, Pa., Dr. John<sup>3</sup> [P.] Skelton being the father of Mrs. Margaret Skelton Lee, and brother of the late DR. ENNION<sup>3</sup> W. SKELTON, of Paxton, Powhatan Co., Va.

"Josiah<sup>3</sup> Skelton, brother of Drs. John [P.] and ENNION, married —— Osman, and had four children;

1. William<sup>4</sup>, now (1856) in Rock Island Co., Illinois;
2. Mary<sup>4</sup>, who married Dr. S. R. Holmes, a widower of Pittsburg. She left one child;
3. Louisa<sup>4</sup>, who died at 20 yrs. old unmarried;
4. Americus<sup>4</sup>, eight years old (1856).

Dr. John<sup>3</sup> [P.] Skelton married —— Osman, and had eight children, viz:

1. Eliza<sup>4</sup> Luckey, b. 1798, lives on Mill Creek, four miles from Cincinnati;
2. Hannah<sup>4</sup> Plumb, a widow, whose home is with her sister, Mrs. Lee;
3. Anna<sup>4</sup> Maria McKown, lives in Davenport, Iowa, her husband is a merchant;
4. Osman<sup>4</sup>, deceased in Cincinnati Augt., 1855, while on a visit from Logansport, Ind.;
5. Josiah<sup>4</sup>, lives in Cincinnati and is a commission merchant on 7th St.;
6. Charles<sup>4</sup>, lives in California, and visited Pittsburg in 1854;

7. Margaret<sup>4</sup> Lee, wife of Caleb Lee, b. Sept. 15th, 1805;
8. Amanda<sup>4</sup> Pinkerton, married a Campbellite preacher, died 1850.

"Margaret<sup>4</sup> (Skelton) and Caleb Lee had fifteen children:

1. John<sup>5</sup> Skelton Lee, born Augt. 6th, 1823;
2. Andrew<sup>5</sup> Jackson Lee, born Jany. 8th, 1825;
3. Maria<sup>5</sup> Lee, born Augt. 19th, 1826;
4. Caleb<sup>5</sup> Lee, born Nov. 18, 1827;
5. William<sup>5</sup> Carl Lee, born May 23rd, 1829;
6. Margaret<sup>5</sup> Lee, born Nov. 18th, 1830, deceased;
7. Ann<sup>5</sup> Eliza Lee, born Jany. 28, 1832, deceased;
8. Wm.<sup>5</sup> Carl Miller Lee, born Jany. 28, 1834, deceased;
9. Thomas<sup>5</sup> Carl Miller Lee, born Nov. 4, 1835, deceased;
10. George<sup>5</sup> Luckey Lee, born Jany. 17, 1837;
11. Hannah<sup>5</sup> Maria Lee, born Oct. 1839;
12. Richard<sup>5</sup> Henry Lee, born Sept. 5th, 1841;
13. Ann<sup>5</sup> Warden Lee, born June 13, 1843;
14. Robert<sup>5</sup> Peter Lee, born April 13, 1845;
15. Emma<sup>5</sup> Louisa Lee, born Oct. 21, 1848.

"Joseph<sup>2</sup> Skelton, cousin of Josiah<sup>2</sup> the father of ENNION<sup>3</sup> and John<sup>3</sup>, died in Armstrong Co., Pa. He left a mother and children, viz:

1. Thomas<sup>3</sup>, a universal genius;
2. Joseph<sup>3</sup>, who lives near his mother;
3. Walter<sup>3</sup>, brought up by Dr. Minto, of Princeton, N. J., who married a sister of Josiah<sup>2</sup>, father of Drs. ENNION<sup>3</sup> and John<sup>3</sup> P.;
4. Ann<sup>2</sup>, who died a maiden aged 35, and is said to have been a very nice lady.

"Walter left about 600 acres of land to his mother and sister, who live on it.

"All the genealogical facts and dates of this paper I received from Mr. and Mrs. Lee. If there are any mistakes, they alone are responsible.

Yours affecy.

(signed) J. Lewis.

To Dr. John G. Skelton."

In the letter of DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> G. SKELTON, previously referred to, after speaking of his own father he says: "Wishing to learn about my uncle John<sup>3</sup> P. Skelton, and having obtained the address of his son Charles<sup>4</sup>, I addressed a letter to him and in reply received one from his brother, John<sup>4</sup> Osman Skelton, which I enclose in order to give some information in regard to his family. [Unfortunately this letter has been lost]. You may remember a visit to my uncle about 1857. He then lived with his son-in-law, Mr. Caleb Lee, about twelve miles from Pittsburg, on the Alleghany River. I there saw Mrs. Lucky and Mrs. Plumb, who had come to see their father in extreme illness. Mr. Lee seemed to be wealthy—lived in generous style, and had several sons, five of whom I saw, four engaged in business in Pittsburg. I have never heard of the family since the [Confederate] war." William<sup>5</sup> O. Skelton had correspondence with them after that time.

The information that MARY WRIGHT, wife of JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> SKELTON, was a cousin of Dr. Scudder, and from Allentown, Pa., (not N. J.), comes from a letter from Ennion<sup>5</sup> W. Skelton, Mrs. Baskerville's brother, to his father, dated April 14, 1876. It was obtained from his great aunts Mary<sup>3</sup> Gifford, and Susan<sup>3</sup> Chapman "last Sunday" with much other information, which will be recorded here later in its proper place. The letter is filed in the Skelton Papers, Vol. II.



## CHAPTER III

# THE SKELTONS IN VIRGINIA

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We take up again from page 28 our grandfather, DR. ENNION<sup>3</sup> WILLIAM SKELTON.

His middle name was *William*, not *Williams*, as some have thought. DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> G. SKELTON told Mrs. Baskerville particularly and positively that his middle name had no *s* in it.

He was born at the family residence, near Scudder's Mills, Middlesex Co., N. J., on September 12th, 1779, and died at Paxton, Powhatan Co., Va., on November 4th, 1836.

His father's friend, Dr. Scudder, who was his mother's cousin, had removed to Genito, Powhatan Co., Va., on the Appomattox River, and had been practising medicine there several years prior to 1802. In that year young DR. ENNION<sup>3</sup> W. SKELTON was induced by Dr. Scudder to remove to Genito, and live and practise with him there.

Dr. Skelton had for several years lived at Princeton, N. J., with Prof. Minto, who had married his Aunt Mary<sup>2</sup> Skelton, and attended Princeton College, and in due course took his Master of Arts degree. He then studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia, where he took the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Subsequent to his removal to Genito, after practising medicine there a year, in March 1803, he returned to New Jersey and married CATHARINE WALDRON GIFFORD (see Gifford Family), and came back to Genito to take the place and practice of Dr. Scudder, who removed back to New Jersey. They continued for some years to live at Genito, where all of their children seem to have been born. Later, about 1823, he built and established his home at "Paxton," about a quarter of a mile from Genito, which was the seat of the family for parts of two generations, until 1866,

when DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> G. SKELTON sold the estate and with his family removed to Richmond, Va. We present a picture of Paxton, as it appeared a few years ago. Some of the more recent owners have disfigured the place by cutting down many of the finest trees in the yard, as is indicated in our picture by the two stumps in front of the house. Here DR. ENNION<sup>3</sup> W. SKELTON lived with his family until his death in 1836. And in the graveyard here were buried his parents, JOSIAH<sup>2</sup> and MARY WRIGHT SKELTON, and DR. ENNION<sup>3</sup> W. and CATHARINE GIFFORD SKELTON.

During this interval of twenty-four years he was busily engaged in his practise of medicine in three counties, Powhatan, Chesterfield, and Amelia. Many of his patients lived far away, and he spent most of his life in his saddle or in his gig (or "sulky," as it was then called). He had to go in winter and in summer, in cold and heat, night and day, in all kinds of weather, and this involved great exposure and fatigue, which undoubtedly shortened his life.

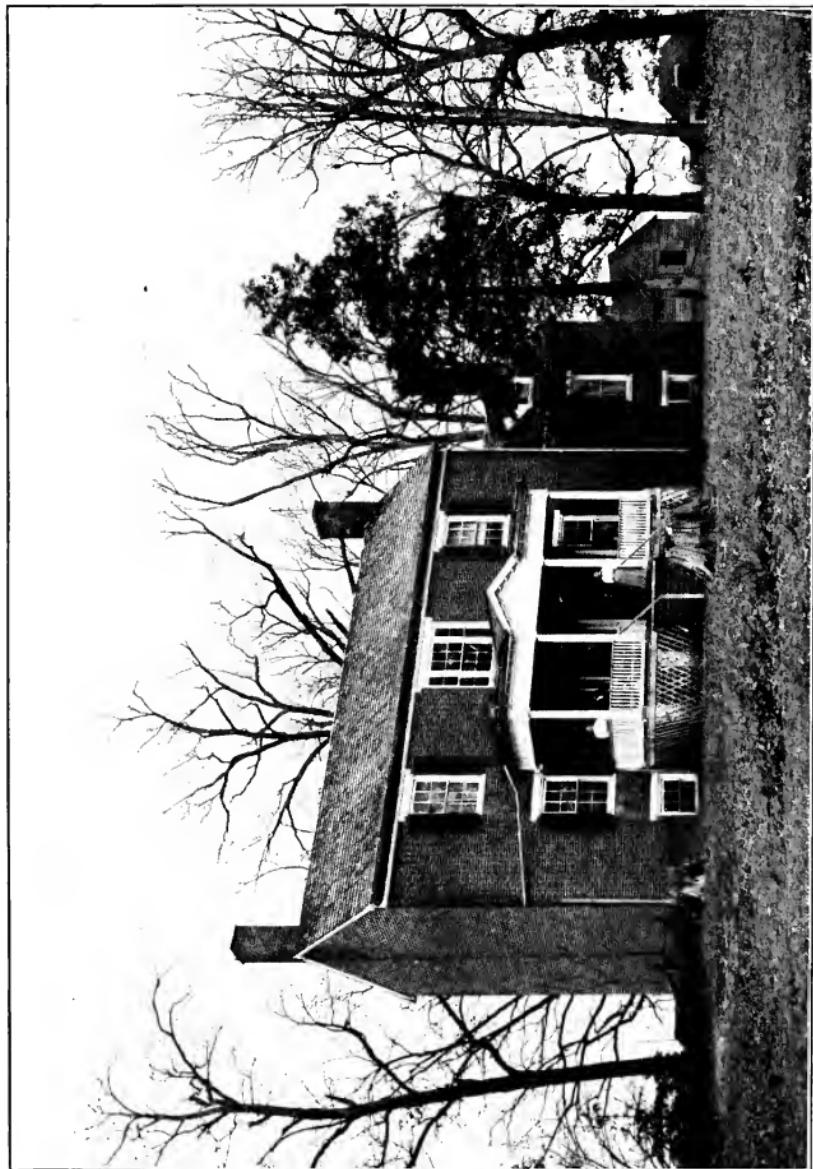
He was gentle, kind, and generous, and never failed to heed the call of sickness without considering the station or condition of the patient.

He was a vestryman of Grub Hill Church in Amelia Co.

The following references to DR. ENNION<sup>3</sup> W. SKELTON are interesting and pleasing.

In the autumn of 1827, Dr. W. P. Vial, of Newark, N. J., paid a visit to the Genito neighborhood, in Powhatan Co., to see a sister, who was teaching in a family there, and spent a week or two. He kept a descriptive diary of his stay there, which recently through his son, Dr. W. N. Vail, of Newark, seventy-five years old, and his friend, Mr. John Skelton Williams, we have been enabled to examine. In the course of his visiting he called several times to see Dr. Skelton and his family, and we quote his references to them.

"October, 1827. Called for my sister, and we walked together to Dr. Skelton's to dine. It is needless to say that we were treated there as elsewhere in Virginia. They were intelligent and communicative, and the Misses Skelton are lovely girls, especially Mary. The amiable and thoughtful air which



PAXTON, Powhatan Co., Va.,  
built about 1823.



is spread over her countenance imparts an impression of *mental beauty*, a beauty that is of higher order than that which is merely organic, and derived from a 'set of features and expression.' Still it must be said in the language of Marcia's lover, 'True she's fair, oh how divinely fair.' \* \* \*

"Nov. 2, 1829. Walked to the Doctor's, and dined and spent the night with them. Messrs. Archibald Robinson, of Richmond, and —— Murray were guests with me. The conversation turned on various subjects, each manifesting that vivacity, good nature and intelligence, which gave zest to the domestic circle, and conferred ornament and blessing on society. Eleven o'clock came all too soon, for the time passed pleasantly passes rapidly. \* \* \*

"Nov. 6th. Miss Mary, Hattie [his sister], and myself walked to Dr. Skelton's this morning, where we spent the day. I was glad to find the Doctor at home in the afternoon. He is a man of most excellent sense, of good learning, easy, familiar, and unostentatious in address, possessing a disposition tempered with mildness and humanity. In short he has that true nobility that makes a gentleman in the genuine largest sense of the word. \* \* \*

"Mrs. Skelton has the claim to the title of Lady, that her husband has to that of Gentleman. The Doctor and I conversed until after twelve o'clock, and I think I never passed an evening in a more pleasant and profitable manner. How sweet is such intercourse, when the business and bustle of the day is passed, to retire from the noise and mirth of the crowds with a friend or two, and listen to the still voice of wisdom, and the maxims of skill and prudence gathered from experience and years, and dropping from the lips of maturity and years. \* \* \*

"Nov. 14. \* \* \* Spent the rest of the evening at Doctor Skelton's, and as usual we talked away until the small hours of the night."

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There seemed at first to be some doubt about the time of the building and occupancy of "Paxton," but later information fixed the time. First Mrs. C. R. McVeigh remembers that she had been told that her father, DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> G. SKELTON, was born at the old home at Genito, and was seven or eight years

old when the family moved to Paxton. Again Mrs. E. M. Baskerville remembers being told that her Aunt Catherine<sup>4</sup> G.



MISS CATHERINE  
GIFFORD SKELTON,  
WHEN YOUNG.

Skelton, born Sept. 17th, 1821, was a very small child, just talking, when the Paxton house was building, and that an old Scotch carpenter at work on it was attracted by her prattle, and used to sing for her an old Scotch song, "Catherine Ogie". He called her "Ogie," and the name adhered to her until her death. These things confirm the statement in *Lancaster's Historic Virginia Homes*, that Paxton was completed and occupied in 1823. A pleasing sketch and picture of Paxton may be found in this book.

Attempting an investigation of the origin of the name Paxton, we find in *A History of Quaker Government in Pennsylvania*, by Prof. Sharpless, in the Boston Public Library, in volume II, pages 42-47, a description of the "Paxtang or Paxton incident." It is stated that an Irish colony had been allowed by the Quaker government to settle at a place called "Paxtang" or "Paxton", and at Donegal, south of Harrisburg, and became known as the "Paxton Boys." In 1763 they were attacked, or molested by a tribe of Indians, and becoming very much exasperated, attacked and are said to have exterminated the Indians in what was called "The Paxton Riot." No explanation of the origin of the name Paxton is given, but it is supposed that DR. ENNION<sup>3</sup> W. SKELTON's place Paxton from some association was named after the place in Pennsylvania.

DR. ENNION<sup>3</sup> W. SKELTON died at a comparatively early age, being fifty-seven years old, on November 4th, 1836, and was succeeded in his practice, and estate of Paxton, by his only son, DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> GIFFORD SKELTON, who a little later graduated in the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania.

DR. ENNION<sup>3</sup> W. and CATHARINE WALDRON (GIFFORD) SKELTON had six children, viz:

1. Rebecca<sup>4</sup> Murray, b. 11/10/1804, m. Wm. Murray, d. 1858;
2. Louisa<sup>4</sup> S., b. 1/3/1806, m. Rev. Jefferson Lewis;
3. Mary<sup>4</sup> Gifford, b. 7/8/1810, m. Benj. W. Finney;
4. Sarah<sup>4</sup> Catherine, b. 12/10/1812, d. 11/6/1866, m. Charles Selden;

5. JOHN<sup>4</sup> GIFFORD, b. 4/29/1815, d. 10/31/1889, m. 1st Charlotte Foushee Randolph, d. 1843; 2d Marianne O. Meade, d. 1869;
6. Catherine<sup>4</sup> Gifford, b. 9/17/1821, never married, d. 1897.

DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> G. SKELTON, the only son, inherited the family seat, "Paxton," and several of the married sisters settled in the neighborhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Murray (Rebecca<sup>4</sup> Murray Skelton) lived at "Edgehill," about two miles from Paxton. They had a large family of children, whose names will be seen in the Skelton table. Mrs. Murray died in 1858.

Their family has scattered and the home has passed into other hands.

Rev. Jefferson Lewis, who married Louisa<sup>4</sup> Skelton, being a Methodist minister, and following the custom of his church, lived in many places, but he owned a home in Burlington, N. J., where they occasionally lived. The names of their children are shown in the table.

Mr. Benjamin W. Finney and his wife, Mrs. Mary<sup>4</sup> Gifford (Skelton) Finney, lived for many years at their place, "Morven," about two miles from Paxton. After the Confederate War they removed to Richmond where he continued to practice law. They had four children, whose names are in our table, and parents and children are all dead without any descendants. Misses Julia and Kate Finney survived much the longest time and for many years lived together on Leigh St., Richmond, Va.

Mr. Charles Selden, and his wife, Mrs. Sarah<sup>4</sup> Catherine (Skelton) Selden, lived at their place, "Oak Grove," about two miles and a half from Paxton, and had quite a family of children, whose names appear in the table. They both died there some time after the Confederate war, and the place has passed into the hands of strangers.

Miss Catharine<sup>4</sup> Gifford Skelton never married, and lived the latter part of her life with her niece, Mrs. John L. Williams, to whom she was devotedly attached. She was an attractive lady of very high character, and her life was unselfishly given up to the service of others. The present generation of her nieces and nephews have strongly affectionate recollections of her. She died in 1897.



## CHAPTER IV

# DR. JOHN GIFFORD SKELTON

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DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> GIFFORD SKELTON, the only son, was born April 29th, 1815, attended first the school of Mr. W. H. Harrison, in Amelia Co.; later he went to the University of Virginia and took an academic course there, and then he attended the medical school of the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia, where he was graduated in medicine with the degree of M. D. Mrs. Baskerville has his card of admission to the university lectures on Surgery, dated Nov. 1st, 1837, of which we present a picture. (p. 40).

After his graduation, his father having died on Nov. 4th, 1836, he returned to Paxton, and begun the practice of medicine. He inherited Paxton, and succeeded to his father's practice, which he continued for about thirty years. Then about 1866, because the laborious character of the country practice was too severely taxing his strength, he sold his place, Paxton, and moved to Richmond, where for more than twenty years he continued his practice.

Being always a diligent student, and of unusual intelligence, he was thoroughly informed and educated in his profession. He was a constant reader of medical magazines and new books, and kept up with medical discoveries and developments; being of a very benevolent inclination, he took the deepest interest in his work of healing, and in his patients, and in very many instances became the close personal friend and adviser of the families, even in regard to general matters, so that at his death there were many to mourn his loss; and being of a bright and cheerful disposition, his patients were glad to see him, and his presence did them good, as well as his medicines.

No. 277

UNIVERSITY OF  
Pennsylvania

LECTURES ON THE  
Principles & Practice  
— of —  
SURGERY

Nov 11834

— BY —  
William Gibson, M.D.  
For Mr. John G. Skelton

He was a sincere Christian of a practical type, and in many cases of sorrow and death became a spiritual, as well as a medical adviser. He would have much liked to have practiced his profession without compensation, for the good he could do, if his circumstances had made this possible.

He was highly esteemed and respected by the other physicians in Richmond, both for his personal and professional attainments, and had much consulting practice. And often in cases of disagreement between them he was accepted as an arbitrator, and his decisions were much respected.

The following article taken from a Richmond paper soon after DR. SKELTON's death shows the esteem in which he was held:

“DR. JOHN G. SKELTON. Sudden death of this venerable physician.

“Brief biographical sketch of one of the best citizens Richmond ever had.

“DR. JOHN GIFFORD SKELTON died suddenly of angina pectoris at his residence, at the southeast corner of Eighth and Franklin Sts., yesterday afternoon about four o'clock. He had been unwell for several days, though he complained little. Night before last he was out to see a patient. For several hours yesterday he lay upon a lounge, and spoke of a pain in his breast, but no one of his household suspected that his life was drawing to a close. If he knew aught of it, he suppressed the fact in that unselfishness of spirit and consideration for others, that was his characteristic.

“DR. SKELTON was born in Powhatan county April 19, 1815. He passed his early life at and near his home, attending the school of W. H. Harrison, of Amelia. He attended the University of Virginia, and took his degree as doctor of medicine in Philadelphia.

“Immediately after receiving his medical diploma, on the death of his father he entered upon the active and laborious practice of his calling throughout the counties of Amelia, Powhatan and Chesterfield.

“In 1866 he moved to Richmond, and had since his presence here been counted as in every respect one of the highest of his

profession. But great as was his skill, large and accurate his experience, clear, true, and profound his diagnosis, square and honest his judgment, ample, wise, and ready his resources, all were secondary to his excellence as a man. The practice of his profession was but his way of life, the heaven appointed course along which the beautiful virtues and graces of his honorable soul were to manifest themselves.

"Unflinching courage, fortitude, prudence, discretion, gentle sympathy for all in suffering, and tender affection for those dear to him, with kind courtesy for all, were his leading characteristics. The truest and fullest description of him would be his highest praise and honor.

"DR. SKELTON had been twice married, and had been a widower for many years. Ten children survive him—Mrs. John L. Williams, Mrs. C. R. McVeigh, Mrs. T. N. Jones (of Raleigh, N. C.), Mrs. P. H. Baskerville, Ennion W. Skelton (of San Francisco), John G., W. O. (of Florence, Ala.), and Julian F. Skelton, and two unmarried daughters. The funeral will take place from the Monumental church tomorrow afternoon at three o'clock.

"The Richmond Medical and Surgical Society will meet at Schiller Hall at 8 o'clock tonight to take action in regard to Dr. Skelton's death. The profession at large are invited to attend."

And from another paper the following is taken (part of a lecture by Dr. Jno. N. Upshur):

"DR. JOHN G. SKELTON, whom none could know and not love, was in every sense of the word God's noblest creature, a man spiritually, mentally, professionally, illustrating all virtues in a lovely life, and going to his reward at a ripe old age, an honor to his profession, and an example of a well spent life left to us, which we would do well to emulate. It was an inspiration to have known him and called him friend. As a practitioner he was skillful, painstaking, and successful. No member of the profession possessed more highly the confidence of his brethren, or was more cheerfully sought as a counselor in difficult cases."

When the Confederate War began in 1861, DR. SKELTON

was forty-six years old, too old for the army, but independent of this his position as "the physician" of so large a territory required that he should remain at home and take care of his practice. His life was a very laborious one, as he spent most of it in his saddle or his "sulky" going to and fro in his practice. Neither rain, nor snow, nor cold, nor night stopped him, and he spent little of his time at home. During the last of the war many of the numerous soldiers passing his house were entertained there, and in the great scarcity of food and other necessities of life the family were careful to retain what they could for their special entertainment.

After the close of the war, he was beginning to be an old man, and found he could not endure the physical strain, which his practice involved. Considering this and the exigencies of the times, he concluded it would be best for him to move to Richmond, where he had many friends. As previously stated, having sold his Paxton estate, he did so in 1866, and in a comparatively short time he built up a good practice there, where he lived until his decease in 1889.

DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> G. SKELTON married first Charlotte Randolph, daughter of Peyton Randolph, the younger, and his wife, Maria Ward. Peyton Randolph, born about 1780, died 1828, was conspicuous as a lawyer and in politics, and of a distinguished lineage. He was for a short time acting governor of Virginia after the lamentable death of Governor George William Smith in the burning of the Richmond Theatre in 1811, until James Barbour was elected and inaugurated as governor. His father Edmund Randolph was a distinguished governor of Virginia, and his grandfather, John Randolph, and great grandfather, Sir John Randolph, were distinguished lawyers, who held high office in colonial times. The last was knighted for eminent service to the crown. Peyton Randolph, the elder, the first president of the American Congress, and one of the most distinguished lawyers and patriots of his time, born 1723, died 1775, was a brother of John Randolph, father of Governor Edmund Randolph, and not an ancestor of Mrs. Skelton, but an uncle several times removed. For the last see Howe's *Virginia*, page 333; and for the others mentioned see Brock's *Vir-*

*ginia and Virginians*, page 112 and elsewhere. Maria Ward was a noted beauty and belle, said to have been the one love of the famous John Randolph, of Roanoke. We have a sketch of her Ward lineage. Her mother was MARY<sup>5</sup> EGGLESTON, sister of ANNE<sup>5</sup> EGGLESTON, who married DANIEL HARDAWAY, Mrs. Baskerville's great grandparents. She married first Benjamin Ward, Maria Ward's father, and after his death GENL. EVERARD MEADE, and thus was also Mrs. Baskerville's great grandmother. See our EGGLESTON table in *Andrew Meade*. We present a picture of Maria Ward.

One daughter was born to DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> G. SKELTON of this marriage, Maria Ward Skelton, born 1843, who married John L. Williams, of Richmond, Va., and they are now (1914) living in Richmond.\* Their large family of children, whose names are given in the table, are all married, and most of them are living also in Richmond. Of their nine children eight are living and with families, and at present (February, 1914), there are more than forty grandchildren.

DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> G. SKELTON married secondly MARIANNE O. MEADE, daughter of BENJAMIN L. and JANE ELIZABETH (HARDAWAY) MEADE, (see MEADE Family), and they had five sons and five daughters:

1. Charlotte<sup>5</sup> Randolph, b. 1847, m. Llewellyn W. McVeigh;
2. Ennion<sup>5</sup> Wood, b. 1848, unmarried, lives in San Francisco;
3. Catharine<sup>5</sup> Gifford, b. 1850, m. T. Norman Jones;
4. ELISE<sup>5</sup> MEADE, b. 1852, m. P. H. Baskerville;
5. Benjamin<sup>5</sup> Meade, b. 1853, d. unm. 1879;
6. John<sup>5</sup> Gifford, b. 1855, m. Lucy C. Landrum, d. —;
7. William<sup>5</sup> O., b. 1858, d. unm. 1911;
8. Marianne<sup>5</sup> Everard, b. 1861, m. Alfred Wolcott Gibbs;
9. Anne<sup>5</sup> Archer, b. 1865, m. Walter H. Miles, o. s. p. 1893;
10. Julian<sup>5</sup> Finney, b. 1867, unm.

Postscript, June 22nd, 1920.

The preceding record was written five or six years ago. I

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\* Mr. John L. Williams died in Richmond, Va., in 1915.



MARIA WARD



think it best to add a brief sketch of the children of DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> G. SKELTON, giving mere outlines.

Maria<sup>5</sup> Ward Skelton, as stated, married John L. Williams in 1864. They established their home in Richmond, where Mr. Williams lived until his death on Febry. 11, 1915. As shown in our table, they had a large family of children.

Of these one, Charlotte, in her sixteenth year, was drowned by an undercurrent while bathing at Old Point, Va. The others all lived to maturity, all are married with families of children, as shown in our table, and live in Richmond except Robert<sup>6</sup> Lancaster Williams, who lives in Baltimore.

The oldest, John<sup>6</sup> Skelton Williams, has unusual ability, and has become conspicuous as a banker and financier. He organized the Seaboard Air Line Railroad, and for a long time was its president. And now (1920) for some years he has been Federal Comptroller of the Currency, a high office of the United States government, under President Woodrow Wilson. The other sons are successfully engaged in various branches of business.

Charlotte<sup>5</sup> Randolph Skelton married Llewellyn Walton McVeigh. He died a year after their marriage, and she has one son, Llewellyn Walton McVeigh, now successfully conducting a real estate business in Richmond. After Mr. McVeigh's death she lived with her father and conducted his household for him, her mother having died, and at present she lives with her son in Richmond.

Ennion<sup>5</sup> W. Skelton has never married. He was for some years with Lancaster & Co., in New York City, and in 1876 removed to San Francisco to join a friend, and is now (1920) living there conducting a real estate business.

Catherine<sup>5</sup> Gifford Skelton married Th. Norman Jones, of Raleigh, N. C., in 1873. They lived in Raleigh, and Wilson, N. C., at different times, where he conducted a tobacco business. Both are now deceased, and of their two children, Kate married Wm. E. Meade, of Danville, Va. He has since died, and she continues to reside there. A son, Thos. Norman Jones, Jr., married Elsie Wellford and they have two children. He was for some time Superintendent of the Virginia Rwy. &

Power Co., and managed the street car lines in Richmond. Later he was promoted to manager of this company's lines in Norfolk and the vicinity, which position he still holds, residing in Norfolk.

Elise<sup>5</sup> Meade Skelton married the writer, P. Hamilton Baskerville, of Richmond, Va., in 1875. We continue to live in Richmond in our house at the corner of Laurel St. and Park Ave., which we have owned and occupied since November, 1878. Our eldest son, John<sup>6</sup> Skelton Baskerville, born in 1876, was transplanted to Paradise in 1879, and in 1882 our second son Hamilton<sup>6</sup> Meade Baskerville was born. He still lives with us unmarried—is vice-president of The Watt Plow Co., a vestryman of Holy Trinity Church, and volunteer organist there.

Benjamin<sup>6</sup> Meade Skelton was never married. After leaving school he was engaged in business in Richmond, but died young, in 1879.

John<sup>6</sup> G. Skelton married Lucy C. Landrum, of Arkansas, where he spent some time, and later he moved back to Richmond. They had a large family of children, whose names are given in our table. For a long time he was superintendent of The Richmond Mica Co., until his death. His children are all married and scattered.

William<sup>5</sup> Old Skelton never married. He lived in Richmond except for a short time in Florence, Ala.; was engaged first in commercial pursuits, and later studied and practiced law. He died in Richmond on April 27, 1911.

Marianne<sup>5</sup> Everard Skelton in 1890 married Alfred Wolcott Gibbs, an engineer in the employment of the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. His father of a prominent family of Newport, R. I., was a general in the United States Army, and his mother Miss Blair, of a prominent Virginia family. They lived first at Alexandria, Va.; then, when he was given a higher office in the Southern Railway Co., in Savannah, Ga. Later the Pennsylvania R. R. Co. induced him to return to their employment, and they removed to Altoona, Penn. And later still, when he was promoted to be one of the general officers of the company with his office in Philadelphia, they settled in Wayne, a suburban town, where they still reside. They have one child, Mari-

anne<sup>6</sup> Skelton Gibbs, the writer's god-daughter, a very unusually sweet and attractive young lady, to whom the writer is much attached. She was married a few days ago (June 9, 1920), to Landreth Lee Layton, Jr., of Georgetown, Delaware, a very worthy gentleman, and they expect to live there.

Anne<sup>5</sup> Archer Skelton married Walter H. Miles, of Richmond, Va., and did not very long survive her marriage.

Julian<sup>5</sup> Finney Skelton, the youngest, has never married. He has for many years been an officer of the Virginia Fire and Marine Insurance Co., and resides in Richmond.



## CHAPTER V

# SKELTON COAT OF ARMS

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The Skelton family is undoubtedly "armigeral," i. e., entitled to heraldic arms.

The different branches of the family have used a great variety of both shields and crests, and it does not seem possible to determine to which of these the Skeltons of Paxton are entitled. An impression has prevailed with some that the family came from Plymouth, but there is no proof, so that we can not with any certainty assume the arms of the Plymouth Skeltons, particularly as the usage there also has varied, and more than one form has been used.

The Plymouth arms are: Azure a chevron, between three horse's heads couped argent. Crest: Out of a ducal coronet azure, a horse's head argent.

Armathwaite: Azure, on a fesse argent, between three fleurs de lis or, a Cornish chough proper. Crest: A bird's head erased sable, holding in the beak an acorn or, stalked and leaved vert.

High House, Cumberland: Azure a fesse cotised between three fleur de lis.

(We give these three, as specimens, and there are several others entirely different, chiefly with either horse's heads, or fleur de lis on the shields. Not being able to determine which one belongs to our family of Skeltons, we do not give a picture and let the matter rest here.)

In a "Pedigree of the Skelton Family," bought in England, with which we can not trace any connection, previously referred to, apparently a leaf from a history of Cumberland, being the family of Armathwaite Castle, the coat of arms is shown, same as that of Armathwaite described except that the

*fesse* is plain and has no *chough* or bird. On the crest is a bird's head as described before.

Then an entirely different shield is used on the letter sheet of Dr. John Skelton, of Plymouth, previously referred to, with four quarterings on it, including two Skelton quarters with horse's heads, the crest being also a horse's head. Some of the family have assumed this, there being an impression that the family came from Plymouth, but apparently without any basis. The writer can see no basis upon which to determine to which coat of arms our family is entitled, and we can only give the various descriptions and let the matter rest here.

The Skelton motto is: *Nobilitas sola est atque unica virtus.*

As the Skeltons of Armathwaite seem to be the oldest branch of the family, we have placed a picture of their coat of arms on our title page.

#### SKELTON AUTHORS.

John Skelton, Poet Laureate, 1460-1525, *Poetical Works*, 4 editions;

Sir John Skelton (Scotland), 1831-1897, 9 volumes;

Charles Skelton (M. D.), 1806-1879, Trenton, N. J., *Essays on Heat*, &c.;

J. R. Skelton, 1908, Illustrator of John Lang's *Outposts of the Empire*;

C. O. Skelton, 1908, Co-editor of *John Gordon*, by John Malcolm Bullock;

Henry Skelton, 1856, Translator of Moritz Schreber's *Medical Indoor Gymnastics*;

John Henry Skelton, 1837, *My Book, or The Anatomy of Conduct*, London;

Joseph Skelton, no date, *Records of Oxford Founders*;

Rev. Philip Skelton, 1707-1787, *How Happiness is to be obtained by Marriage*;

Samuel Skelton, d. 1634, Papers Relating to him, 1876;

Edward Oliver Skelton, 1910, *The Story of New England*, illustrated.

## ORIGIN OF THE NAME.

Investigating the origin of the name SKELTON, we find in Barber's *British Family Names*: "Skelton, a local name in Cumberland and Yorkshire; also Shelton from Skelton, in Yorkshire and Norfolk; in *Domesday Book* Scheltun." And from *Words and Places*, by Isaac Taylor, we find that Shelton and Skelton usually signify a *tun* on a shelf or ledge, as at Shelton, Bedfordshire, called "Sceltun" in a charter of 1792. Also: "Ton, Anglo-Saxon *tun*, an enclosure, hence a village, characteristic of English townships."



# THE GIFFORD FAMILY





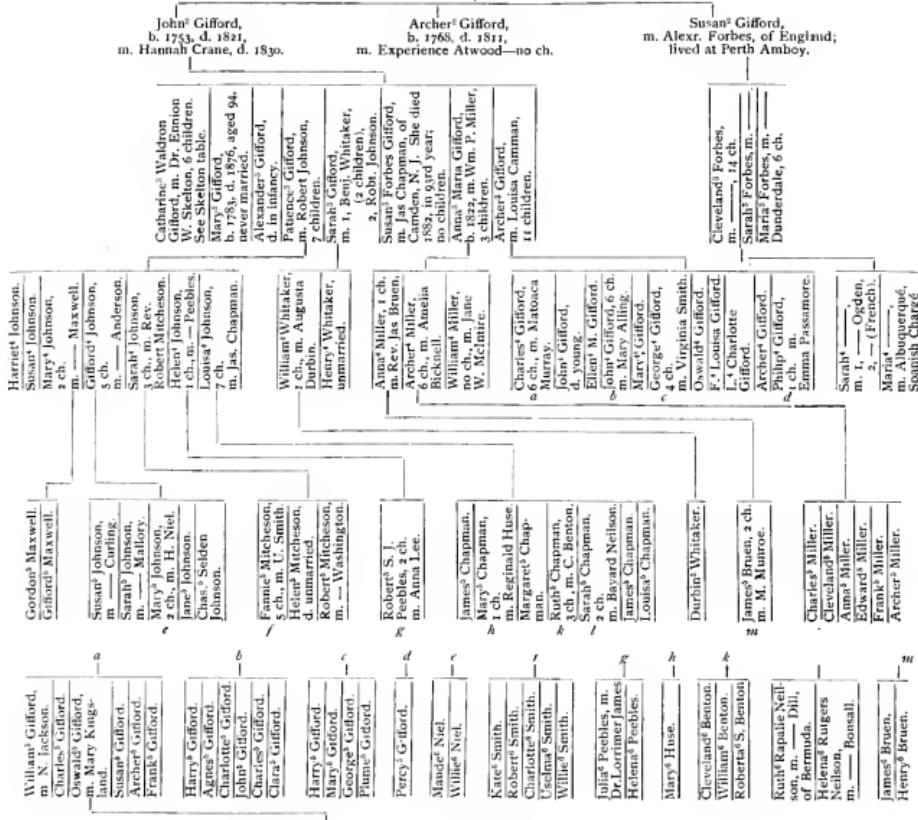




### CHART III

GIFFORD FAMILY

Archer<sup>1</sup> Gifford, m. Catharine Waldron, came to Canada between 1756-63, died there. | French, mother was de Blois.





## CHAPTER VI

# THE GIFFORDS IN ENGLAND

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CATHARINE<sup>4</sup> WALDRON GIFFORD married DR. ENNION<sup>3</sup> WILLIAM SKELTON.

Unfortunately we cannot trace the definite lineage of our Gifford family very far back, only to the middle of the eighteenth century, about 1756, to ARCHER<sup>1</sup> GIFFORD, who was the progenitor of our New Jersey family of Giffords. He is said to have come to America about that time, and to have been English, and to have descended according to tradition from the Giffords of "Job's Well," Cardiganshire, Wales, and to have come first to Canada. We cannot trace his ancestry.

There were in the early times of this country many other Giffords in New England, and we have a copy of their lineage, *Gifford Genealogy*, by Harry E. Gifford, but it does not mention our branch of the family, nor does it seem to have any connection with it.

But the Giffords of England have always been prominent, and even in Normandy before the Conquest. And even without a definite connecting link we know that our family came from these people, and find their history instructive and entertaining. Therefore we have gathered some of the English history of the family.

The family of Gifford is of Norman origin, and is very ancient and distinguished. The name was formerly Giffard, and this form is still retained by some branches of the family.

The first member of the family, of whom we know, was Walter Giffard, Count of Longueville and Bolbec, or Bolebec, Normandy, and he was one of the most distinguished Norman noblemen of the period, and a close, personal friend of William the Conqueror. The chronicles of the period give a large place

to him, to his social position, his large possessions, and his personal achievements.

From Planché's *The Conqueror and His Companions* we learn; "Here we have the name of an illustrious Norman, the progenitor of a race, from which the noblest families in England are proud to trace their descent."

At that period of the world's history the strength of the ruler, whether emperor, king, or duke, was in his subjects of the greater nobility. The royal armies were composed of the greater lords, and *their* armies, composed of their own personal followers and dependents, with the exception perhaps, that the king or duke, in his own capacity as a greater lord, may have had fiefs and thus retainers of his own, but only to a very limited extent. These greater lords, the counts, earls, dukes, &c., constituted the court and the ruling class, without whose approval the royal decrees and mandates could not be enforced. Duke William, of Normandy, had a brilliant and powerful entourage of these greater lords, and one of the small circle, that was nearest to him, was Walter Giffard, Lord of Bolbec and Longueville. He was a close personal friend, a trusted adviser, and a strong upholder.

When William had determined to invade England and make himself king, he is said by Wace, in his *Roman de Rou*, to have consulted with eight of his nearest and strongest supporters, including two of his brothers, and Walter Giffard, "a man of great worth." These approved of the plan and promised their support, and when the barons were all summoned, and consulted, and many of them, worn out with the constant warring with the French, demurred and complained, Walter Giffard and some of the others, reasoned with them, and persuaded them to approve and sustain the duke's plans.

Walter Giffard was one of the most prominent of the Norman greater nobles of this stormy period, and we have an interesting group of contemporaneous historians, who have a great deal to say about him. Of these we mention Orderic Vitalis (died 1142), in his *Ecclesiae Historiac*; Wace, (died 1184), in his *Roman de Rou*; William of Jumiége, (died about

1090), in his *History of the Normans*; William of Poictiers, a contemporary, in his *Life of William the Conqueror*; and there were others also, some contemporaries and all living within a hundred years of his time. And then of the earlier and later English writers, whose works are classics, who have much to say about him, we mention Camden (1551-1623), in his *Brittania*; Lyson (1703-1819), in his *Magna Britannica*; Leland (1506-1552), in his *De Rebus Britannicis Collectania*; Lower, in his *Dictionary of Family Names*; and Burke, in his *Extinct and Dormant Peerages*. And there are many other similar works with frequent references to him and his line. Among modern books we mention Planché's *The Conqueror and His Companions*, where we find a large space devoted to him.

From William of Jumiége we get the fullest detailed account of his parentage and near descendants. He was one of the sons of Osbern de Bolbec, or Bolebec, and his wife, Avelina, a sister of the Duchess Gunnora, wife of Duke Richard I, of Normandy, and was thus first cousin to Duke Richard II, and was born not far from the year 1000 A. D. His father was count or earl of Bolbec, and his mother a daughter of Herfast, "a noble Dane," a sister of the Duchess Gunnora, whose sisters and nieces married Norman nobles of the higher rank, and from whom were descended many of the most prominent families of Normandy and England, as will be seen in our chart of this remarkable family.

He did not inherit the name Giffard from his father, as hereditary surnames were in the main not in use then. It is said to signify "a freehanded or liberal giver," and thus to have been acquired, but this is uncertain. We find on an old map of Normandy, in Taylor's translation of *Roman de Rou*, previously mentioned, a place named *Giffart*, in the N. E. corner, on the river Varenne, from which the name Giffard was doubtless acquired by our Walter<sup>1</sup>. A copy of this map may be found in the writer's *Additional Baskerville Genealogy*. We notice also from the map that this place Giffart is very near Longueville, the place of which Walter Giffard was created earl by Duke Richard II, which seems to confirm our supposition.

There are said to have been other Giffards, including Osborne and Berenger Giffard, contemporaries; also Osborne Gyfarde (sic), a Norman noble, who likewise aided in the conquest of England, and established the family of Giffards of Brimsfield, Co. Gloucester, England, which remains to the present time (1886), who is said to have been his brother. (Burke's *Landed Gentry*, vol. I, p. 465, editions of 1847 and 1886, Va. State Library).

He seems to have inherited the lordship of Bolbec from his father, and Burke tells us that he was "created" Count of Longueville in 1025 by Duke Richard II, of Normandy, grandfather of William the Conqueror, his cousin, who was born two years later. Burke continues: "He acquired great renown in the armies of William, achieving several signal victories for Normandy in the war with France."

We have also accounts of these events of Walter Giffard in Freeman's *Norman Conquest*, another standard history. In vol. III, p. 87, we are told: "When in 1053 Duke William resisting the rebellion of William of Arques, son of Duke Richard II and Papia, Walter Giffard, the elder, was put in command of an expedition against him."

And again on p. 103: "Walter Giffard was in command at the battle of Morlemer against the French," (1054). Also, p. 192, "Walter Gifford was one of Duke Williams counsellors, when Harold refused to surrender the English crown."

And in several other cases the similar statements are made, as we have already quoted from Planché and others.

Planché tells us: "We hear of him first in 1035, as a companion of Hugh de Gornay in the abortive attempt of Edward, son of King Ethelred, to recover the crown of England; and next in 1053, when he was left by Duke William in command of the forces blockading the Castle of Arques, and at that period was Lord of Longueville, and already past the prime of life, judging by his account of himself thirteen years afterwards. In the following year, Wace informs us, he was entrusted by the Duke with the defense of the district of Caux [Normandy], in which Longueville is situated, on the occasion of the invasion

of Normandy by Henry, King of France. Subsequently he appears to have made a pilgrimage to St. Iago de Compostella, in Spain, or he may perhaps have been sent there by the Duke on some mission to Alfonso, King of Galicia, to whom William afterwards affianced his daughter Agatha, after breaking off the match with the Saxon Prince Edwin. All we learn from Wace is that in the great battle William's first horse had been brought to him by Giffard from Spain, 'the gift of a king who had a great friendship for him.'

Hugh de Gournay, in company with whom he assisted Edward in England, was his brother-in-law, both of them having married daughters of Gerard Flattel.

And when Duke William determined to go over the seas, and maintain his claim to the throne of England, he first consulted his closest advisers, as stated, including Walter Giffard, and they sustained him, and persuaded the larger assembly of nobles to unite in the undertaking.

Walter Giffard is said by Wace to have furnished thirty ships and a hundred men, who were doubtless all knights with numerous followings of retainers. He accompanied Duke William to England, and commanded his own contingent of knights and men at arms. At this time he was "an old man, white haired and bald headed."

Wace also relates several episodes of the Battle of Hastings, in which Walter Giffard participated, and which seem sufficiently interesting to be included here.

In regard to the horse from the King of Spain he tells us: "Then the Duke called for his good horse; a better could not be found. It had been sent to him by the king of Spain as a token of friendship. Neither arms nor throng did it fear, when its lord spurred on. Gualtier Giffart, who had been to St. Jago, brought it. The Duke stretched out his hands, took the reins, put foot in stirrup, and mounted; and the good horse pawed, pranced, reared himself up, and curvetted.

"Then the Duke called a serving man, and ordered him to bring forth the gonfanon (banner), which the pope had sent him." He first told Raol de Conches, son of Roger de Long,

hereditary standard bearer of Normandy, to bear the banner, but he excused himself on the ground that he could accomplish more fighting. "Then the Duke turned another way and called to him Gualtier Giffart. 'Do thou take this gonfanon,' said he, 'and bear it in battle.' But Gualtier Giffart answered, 'Sire, for God's mercy look at my white hair and bald head; my strength has fallen away and my breath become shorter. The standard should be borne by one who can endure long labour; I shall be in the battle, and you have not any man who will serve you more truly; I will strike with my sword til it shall be dyed in your enemies' blood.'

"Then the Duke said fiercely, 'By the splendour of God (William's customary oath), my lords, I think you mean to betray and fail me in this great need.' 'Sire,' said Giffart, 'not so! We have done no treason, nor do I refuse from any felony towards you; but I have to lead a great chivalry, both soldiers and the men of my fief. Never had I such good means of serving you as I have now; if need be, I will die for you, and will give my own heart for yours.' 'By my faith,' quoth the Duke, 'I always loved thee, and now I love thee more; if I survive this day, thou shalt be the better for it all thy days.' Then he called a knight, whom he had heard much praised, Tosteins Fitz Rou le Blanc, and to him he delivered the gonfanon; and Tosteins took it right cheerfully, and bore it gallantly and with good heart." (Taylor's translation.)

Wace also gives another interesting account of Walter Giffard. After Duke William had won the Battle of Hastings, night having come on, "He ordered his tent to be raised on the spot among the dead, and had his meat brought thither, and his supper prepared there. But behold, up galloped Gualtier Giffard. 'Sire,' said he, 'what are you about? You are surely not fitly placed here among the dead. Many an Englishman lies bloody and mingled with the dead, but yet sound and only wounded and besmeared with gore; tarrying of his own accord, and meaning to rise at night, and escape in the darkness. They would delight to take their revenge, and would sell their lives dearly, no one of them caring who killed him afterwards,

if he but slew a Norman first; for they say we have done them much wrong. You should lodge elsewhere, and let yourself be guarded by one or two thousand armed men, whom you can best trust. Let a careful watch be set this night, for we know not what snares may be laid for us. You have made a noble day of it, but I like to see the end of the work.' 'Giffart,' said the Duke, 'I thank God, we have done well hitherto; and if such be God's will, we will go on, and do well henceforward. Let us trust God for all!'"

But he did not change his plans.

After the conquest of England Walter Giffard was richly rewarded by King William for his support and assistance. In 1070 he created for him the earldom of Buckingham, and he is said to have acquired in the conquered territory not less than one hundred and seven lordships and manors, including two in Berkshire, one in Wilts, five in Cambridgeshire, nine in Oxfordshire, nine in Bedfordshire, three in Suffolk, twenty-eight in Norfolk, and forty-eight in Buckinghamshire. Thus he was the first of the earls of Buckingham.

At the time of the Domesday Survey, 1083, he was appointed by King William, with Remigius, Bishop of Lincoln, one of the commissioners to assess lands for the survey, and to attend to the preparation of the Domesday Book, which was finished in 1085. And about this time he is said to have died in advanced old age, he being twenty-five to thirty years older than King William. His death occurred in 1085 or 1086, probably after the Domesday Book was issued.

There is some confusion in the various accounts as to some points in the history of Walter<sup>1</sup> Giffard and his near descendants. His son, Walter<sup>2</sup> Giffard, who is said to have died in 1102, was evidently old enough also to have been present at the Battle of Hastings, and this seems beyond a doubt to have occurred. On this account it has been stated that some of the history given above applies to Walter<sup>2</sup> Giffard instead of his father, but we have followed the best authorities, and the most reasonable interpretations. Some authorities state that Walter<sup>2</sup> Giffard was made Earl of Buckingham and not his father, but

this claim is not upheld by the best authorities or by the surrounding circumstances.

Walter<sup>1</sup> Giffard married Ermengarde, daughter of Gerard Flattel or Flaitel, of whom another daughter, Basilie, married Hugh de Gornay, and they are said to have had at least two sons and several daughters, viz:

1. Walter<sup>2</sup> Giffard, 2nd Earl of Buckingham (said by some to have been the first earl);
2. William<sup>2</sup> Giffard, Bishop of Winchester;
3. Rohais (daughter), m. to Richard de Clare, son of Geofrey, Count d'Eu, a natural son of Duke Richard I, from whom descended the great house of De Clare;
4. Several other daughters.

Of these we take up first William<sup>2</sup> Giffard, Bishop of Winchester, who died in 1129. He became conspicuous both in the church and politically—was canon and later dean of the Cathedral of Rouen, and still later he was made Chancellor of England by King William (II) Rufus. Still later he was appointed Bishop of Winchester by Henry I immediately on his accession to the throne. William of Malmesbury, a contemporary historian, states that he was very reluctant to accept the bishopric, but “it was violently forced upon him by the king.” Taking part then in the affairs of state, he quarrelled with the king, and was exiled to Normandy, but later he was pardoned and returned, and was consecrated bishop seven years after his election. Contemporary historians give him a high character, which he appears to have deserved. Henry of Huntingdon calls him “vir nobilissimus,” and others describe his patience, piety, and gentleness.

In the notes to Orderic Vitalis we are told that Bishop William Giffard was chancellor to three kings, William I in the latter part of his reign; William II, 1093-1100, and Henry I, 1100-1108.

The daughter Rohais is said to have had four sons and two daughters.

Of Walter<sup>2</sup> Giffard we know something, but not much. He is confused with his father, and is said by William Camden and

others to have been the first earl of Buckingham, but this seems evidently to have been an error. In the quarrel between William Rufus, King of England, and his brother Robert, Duke of Normandy, sons of William the Conqueror, Walter<sup>2</sup> Giffard, Lord of Longueville and Buckingham, and others of Normandy, "in the country beyond the Seine," leagued themselves with the English (Orderic Vitalis). And in another place he says they submitted to the King of England with all their fortresses, &c., and supported him with all their power. In 1089 he became the chief general of the king's army in Normandy. And yet he tells us that later, in 1101 (the year before he died) he and other noblemen of Normandy were parties to a league, which sided with Duke Robert in his quarrels with his younger brother, Henry I of England, who succeeded William Rufus. Please remember that these noblemen had large possessions in England as well as in Normandy. Again Orderic Vitalis tells us that "he died in England on July 15th, 1102, and his body was brought over to Normandy, as he had ordered, and buried at the entrance of the Church of the Blessed Mary, at Longueville de Giffard, near Dieppe, which he had founded. His epitaph was inscribed on the wall, which was ornamented with pictures. The monks of Cluni paid great honours to this baron's memory, and commended his soul to the Lord God \* \* \*. His wife, Agnes, fifteen years after her marriage, gave birth to a son, who was named Walter. After his father's death she carefully educated him, and managed his hereditary domains for him for many years with great prudence." And we are told in a footnote that "this was Walter Giffard, third of that name, who died in 1164, according to Robert Du Mont (Hist. of France, t. XIII, p. 309) without leaving any issue by his wife Ermengarde." Orderic Vitalis, who died in 1143, was a contemporary, and thus must have known. Thus we see that Walter<sup>2</sup> Giffard's wife was named Agnes, and William of Jumiége, who gives much genealogy, tells us that she was the sister of Anselm of Ribemont, and that they had at least this one son, Walter<sup>3</sup> Giffard, and several daughters. And we also find that Walter<sup>3</sup> Giffard's wife was named Ermengarde, like

his grandmother; also that he died without issue in 1164, and left his estates to his sister's children. With him also the earldom of Buckingham lapsed and became dormant, until it was re-created by royal grant.

This Walter<sup>3</sup> Giffard adhered faithfully to King Henry, and distinguished himself in that monarch's cause at the battle of Breueville in 1119 against the French. He founded the abbey of Nutley in Bucks.

There are other Giffards of much prominence in the English records.

In the *Dictionary of National Biography*, (English) in the Virginia State Library, vol. XXI, p. 293 and f, we find twenty-one pages and twenty-three names of prominent Giffards and Giffords, including the following:

William Giffard, Bishop of Winchester, d. 1129, has been mentioned on page 62.

Walter Giffard, son of Hugh Giffard, of Boyton, who died in 1279, was Archbishop of York, as his brother Godfrey Giffard was Bishop of Worcester. Walter Giffard became a canon of Wells, and one of the Pope's chaplains. On 22nd May, 1264, he was elected Bishop of Bath and Wells, and consecrated in Paris. The barons, angry at his going abroad, ravaged his manors, and he excommunicated the Earl of Leicester and his party. He was a handsome, gay, genial man, and in later life grew fat, which injured his health and temper. However he was a man of high character, and was able and industrious. On 10th Augt. 1265, immediately after the battle of Evesham the king made him chancellor. On Oct. 15th of the same year he was appointed by Pope Clement IV to the Archbishopric of York, and was enthroned on 1 November.  
\* \* \* He was one of the guardians of the kingdom during King Edward's (II) absence in 1275. He died in York in 1279, and was buried in his cathedral church.

Godfrey Giffard (1235?-1302), brother of the last, was Bishop of Worcester, and also served as Chancellor of England. He ruled his see for thirty-three years.

John Giffard, Lord Giffard of Brimsfield, (1232-1299) (de-

scendant of Richard Giffard, 3rd son of Elias Giffard, 3rd lord of Brimsfield, see p. 66) was a soldier and baron in the reigns of Henry III, and Edward I, descended from Osborn Giffard, a Norman noble, who under William I acquired various estates, of which Brimsfield (or Bromsfield) in Gloucester, and Sherington in Wiltshire were the chief. He was employed in the wars of Edward I's reign in Wales, in Gascony, and Scotland, and died in 1299. He is constantly described as a valiant and skillful soldier, and a prudent, discreet man. In 1283 he had founded Gloucester Hall, now Worcester College, outside of the walls of Oxford, and made provision there for the sustenance of thirteen Benedictine students.

William Gifford, D. D. (1554-1629), much later, was Archbishop of Rheims, in France. He was the second son of John Gifford, Esqr., of Weston-under-Edge, Gloucestershire. Upon the recommendation of Cardinal Guise, Archbishop of Rheims, he was appointed Coadjutor, and upon his death in 1622 succeeded him as Archbishop of Rheims, and the first peer of France. His appointment gave general satisfaction, and he passed the remainder of his life in preaching, enforcing discipline, and providing for the wants of the poor. He died on 11th April, 1629, and was buried behind the high altar in the Church of the Blessed Virgin, at Rheims, but his heart by his own direction was delivered to the Benedictine nuns of St. Peter's monastery in that city, and deposited in the chapel of their house with great solemnity. He left many literary works.

Passing over the others in this work we will mention the last one:

William Gifford (1756-1826), was editor of the English "Quarterly Review," both the man and the magazine being well known to literary students of this period. He was born in Devonshire, and was very prominent in literary circles in a golden period of English literature, a contemporary of Southey, Keats, Coleridge, Lord Byron, &c. We can merely thus mention his name and refer to this book for his very interesting biography.

Surveying the list of twenty-three Giffards and Giffords here, we find two archbishops, three bishops, three higher judges, including a chief justice, a naval officer, a distinguished soldier, ministers, newspaper and magazine editors, several literary men of note, a poet, and a prominent engraver.

And now we will go back to the lineage again.

In Burke's *Landed Gentry*, edition of 1886, in the Virginia State Library, we find:

"Giffard of Chillington.

Walter Thomas Courtnay Giffard, Esqr. of Chillington, co. Stafford, J[ustice of the] P[ace], D. L., b. 11 Jany. 1839, m. 20th May, 1879, Mary Constance, eldest dau. of Richard Holt Briscoe, Esqr. of Somerford, co. Stafford, and has issue;\*

- i. Thomas Arthur Walter, b. 2 Aug. 1882;
- ii. Winifred Mary Sophia;
- ii. Barbara Constance Anne.

#### LINEAGE.

Osberne de Bolebec, a noble Norman living in the time of Richard I, surnamed Sans Peur, Duke of Normandy, married Avelina, sister of Gunnora, second wife of Duke Richard, and by her had:

1. Walter<sup>1</sup> Giffard [whom we have described];

2. Osborne Gyffarde, the second son, who, having likewise aided in placing England under the yoke of the Normans, had of course his portion of the spoil, and the fertile county of Gloucester was allotted as the locality of his reward. Here he held the extensive manors of Brimsfield, Rochentune, Aldenberie, and Stoche; upon the first of which he settled, and there subsequently a great castle was built (time of Stephen [1135-1154]), which continued to be the residence of the family until it was destroyed by the army of Edward II in the Baronial War of 1322. This Osbern died in the year 1086, and was succeeded by his son,

Elias Giffarde, of Brimsfield, who had two sons;

1. Elias Giffarde, 3rd lord of Brimsfield, who has three sons,

---

\* Wrottesley in his *Giffard Family*, 1901, adds a fourth child, Hugh Peter, born in 1892.

1. Elias, d. s. p. 1191;
2. Walter;
3. Richard. His descendant, John Giffard, had a summons to parliament 24 June, 1295, to 10 April, 1299, as Baron Giffard of Brimsfield.

2. Gilbert Giffard, m. a daughter of Peter Corbizon, of Studley, co. Warwick, and of Chillington, co. Stafford. His son was

William Giffard, and his son,

Peter Giffard, highly distinguished for military exploits in Ireland under his kinsman, Richard de Clare, (Strongbow), Earl of Pembroke [circa 1170]. He married his cousin, Avicia Corbizon, and thus acquired the lordships or manors of Chillington and Walton. He established his family at Chillington, and since then the family have been so designated.

After him the family has been transmitted through a long line of descendants to the representative named at the beginning, including Peter Giffard, Esqr., of Chillington, who succeeded his father in 1632. The rest of the account is substantially a bare list of names and dates, but quite a sketch is given of this Peter Giffard, and his experiences during the Civil War, or Great Rebellion as it is called. In the casualties and political changes of this period he saw the downfall and then the restoration of the Giffard family, and the details of these are given, which we cannot follow here.

Mr. Thomas Wm. Courtnay Giffarde, lord of the manor in 1886, the time of our last information, was twenty-sixth in direct male descent from Osberne Bolbec, and is the twenty-first Giffard of Chillington. This is a very remarkable record.

The writer has failed to find elsewhere any confirmation of Burke's statement that this Osbern de Gyffarde was the son of Osbern de Bolbec, but doubtless he had good authority for it.

As far as the writer knows, this branch is the only link which connects the Giffards of the Conquest with the present time, passing over twenty-six generations and nine centuries, and doubtless such a record is rarely found.

Also from Burke's *Peerage, Baronetage, and Knightage*, of 1904, we get:

The Baron Gifford (Edric Frederick Gifford, V. C.), of St. Leonard's Devon, major late 57th regt., served in Ashanti Expedition in 1873-4 (medal with clasp V. C.), and in Zulu War, 1879, (medal clasp). \* \* \* His lordship was Colonial Secretary for Western Australia and senior member of the Legislative Council in 1880-1883, and Colonial Secretary at Gibraltar 1883-1888.

#### LINEAGE

Sir Robert Gifford, Knt., 1st Baron Gifford, b. Febr. 24, 1779, son of Robt. Giffard, of Exeter. This family seems to be of our day, but the origin is not very ancient.

Also from Burke's *Landed Gentry*, 1847, vol. 1, p. 467.

#### GIFFARD OF BRIGHTLEY

Edward Giffard, Esqr. of Kilcorall, co. Wexford, (Ireland), b. 19th Dec. 1812; succeeded to the representation of the family by the demise of his brother in 1833.

#### LINEAGE

The family of Giffard is of great antiquity in Devonshire, where it flourished as early as the reign of Henry II [1154-1189].

Sir Roger Giffard, a younger son of John Giffard of Halesbury, married Margaret, dau. and co-heiress of John Cobleigh, of Brightley, near Chittlehampton, and acquired with her that estate. \* \* \* Their son was

John Gifford, Esqr., of Brightley, and from him through three generations to

John Giffard, Esqr., b. 1602, succeeded his father at Brightley in 1616, and during the Civil War was one of the staunchest adherents of his sovereign—was decimated, sequestrated, and imprisoned, and paid £1136 as a composition for his estates. After the Restoration he was selected to be a Knight of the proposed order of Royal Oak, and died in 1660. He was a

man of the highest character and had the respect of everybody. He married Joan, youngest daughter of Sir John Wyndham, of Orchard Wyndham, in Somerset.

His eldest grandson, Henry Giffard, being disinherited by his father, settled at Wotton, Devonshire; and died in 1709.

His son, John Giffard, of Torrington, Devonshire, settled in Ireland, co. Wexford, and died in 1748, leaving an only son, John Giffard, Esqr., Accountant General of his Majesty's customs at Dublin, and High Sheriff of that city in 1794, who died in 1819. His son, Sir Ambrose Hardinge Giffard, Knt., Chief Justice of Ceylon, born 1771, died 1827. His second son was Edward Giffard, of Kilcorall, co. Wexford, Ireland, named at the beginning.

There are some interesting features connected with this Brightley family.

The loyalty to the royal family of the Wyndham family spoken of above became proverbial from the admonition of Sir Thos. Wyndham to his son "not to desert the crown, though it hung on a bush." And an interesting relic has descended from his daughter, Mrs. Keigwin, to her great grandson, Capt. Toup Nicolas. It consists of a small gold ring set with diamonds, within which is a concealed miniature of Charles I, beautifully enameled on turquoise.

Also in Burke's *Commoners of Great Britain* (1847), vol. IV, p. 293, we are told that the descendants of Coln. John Giffard, of Brightley, born 1602, are descended also from King Edward I through three of his (the king's) children, and the long descent is given.

Wm. Camden (1551-1623), in his *Britannia*, tells us: "In Buckinghamshire lower on the Tame (sic) is Credendon, now Crendon, which was the head of the 'honour of Gifford,' by which title the lands were called, which fell at the Conquest to the share of Walter Gifford, he being made earl of Buckingham. His kinsman, Hugh de Bolbec, from whom by the female branch the earls of Oxford are descended, held of it no small property here." (Vol. II, p. 37).

Also same, p. 495: "In the south part of Staffordshire, near

Worcestershire, next to Dudley Castle, built by Dudo, a Saxon, about A. D. 700, the most remarkable place is Chillington, the beautiful house and manor of the antient and famous family of Giffards, which in the time of Henry II, Peter Corbuchin gave to Peter Giffard, to whom also Richard Strongbow, the conqueror of Ireland, [his relative], gave Tachmelin, and other places in Ireland."

John Leland (1506-1552) tells us: "In the time of Henry VIII (1509-1547) there were four notable houses of Gifford remaining in England, in the counties of Devon, Southampton, Stafford and Buckingham."

Lower tells that in his time (1860); "The only one of these existing is the Staffordshire family, whose ancestor married the heiress of Corbosone, of the time of King Stephen (1135-1154), and thus became Lord of Chillington, which has ever since been the abode of his posterity." See *Shirley's Noble and Gentle Men of England*.

From *Worthies of England*, Thos. Fuller, D. D., 1608-1661, vol. II, relating to Staffordshire, p. 316, we find that the office of High Sheriff of Staffordshire between 1410 and 1572 A. D., inclusive, was held ten times by a Giffard, viz:

- 1410—Thomas Giffard of Chillington;
- 1509—John Gifford of Chillington;
- 1517—John Gifford, of Chillington;
- 1521—John Gifford, of Chillington;
- 1525—John Gifford, of Chillington;
- 1529—Thomas Gifford, of Chillington;
- 1530—John Gifford, of Chillington;
- 1541—John Gifford, of Chillington;
- 1553—Thomas Giffard, of Chillington;
- 1572—John Giffard, of Chillington.

In the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, VI, 513, we are told: "The Sheriff was particularly the representative of the king, and after the Conquest became a purely royal officer. He held an annual court, which was the judicial tribunal of the county. \* \* \* He was the financial representative of the Crown in his district. \* \* \* The military functions of the Sheriff

were in the reign of Henry VIII, or that of Edward VI, handed over to a new officer, the lord lieutenant."

July 7th, 1922. Later another search in the Library of Congress has been successful, and I have found *The Giffards from the Conquest to the Present Time*, by Maj. Genl. the Hon. George Wrottesley, 1901. But it is contained in volume V of *Historical Collections of Staffordshire*, and its own name is not found in the card index, but does appear in a printed volume index. This work seems to be a very exhaustive history of the Giffard family in England, particularly of the Giffards of Chillington, Staffordshire, apparently the most prominent of the families. We have already given a summary of this, taken from Burke, and other writers, and cannot attempt to add the more minute details.

The family in England has always been large and widely distributed. Genl. Wrottesley says: "I have found the history of the Giffards of Chillington so obstructed by the number of Giffards in various parts of the country, many of whom bore the same Christian name as the contemporary members of the Chillington branch. \* \* \* In the reign of Henry II there were two, if not three Osbert Giffards more or less contemporary. In the reign of Edward I there were three contemporary William Giffards; in the reign of Edward II there were four contemporary John Giffards; and in that of Edward III five John Giffards. \* \* \* There are thirty branches of the Giffard family now (1901) extinct. \* \* \* They even penetrated across the border, and an important line of Giffards was established in the Lowlands of Scotland, as early as the reign of William the Lion [of Scotland, reigned 1165-1214]."

The table of contents of Genl. Wrottesley's book contains the following names of families of Giffards;

- "Giffard, Earles of Buckingham;
- Giffard, Barons of Brimsfield, co. Gloucester;
- Giffard, Barons of Fonthill, co. Wilts;
- Giffard, of Whitechurch and Weare, co. Devon;
- Giffard, of Clovelly and Awlescombe, co. Devon;
- Giffard, of Clifford and Yeo Vale, co. Devon;

Giffard, of Halsbury, co. Devon;  
Giffard, of Brightley, co. Devon;  
Giffard, of Tiverton, co. Devon;  
Giffard, of Landcross, co. Devon;  
Giffard, of Thewborough, co. Devon;  
Giffard, of Lanowmure, co. Cornwall;  
Giffard, of Twyford, co. Bucks;  
Giffard, of Middle Claydon and St. James, co. Northampton;  
Giffard, of Counterstock, co. Northampton;  
Gifford, of Forkiston, co. Devon;  
Gifford, of Helland, co. Cornwall;  
Gifford, of Weston-under-Edge, co. Gloucester;  
Giffard, of Egg Buckland, co. Devon;  
Gifford, of Bicton, co. Devon;  
Gifford, of Great Sandford, co. Essex;  
Giffard, of Bowers, co. Essex;  
Gifford, of Hadley and Clopton, co. Suffolk;  
Giffard, of Twingham, co. Bucks;  
Giffard, of Croome, co. Worcester;  
Gifford, of Whaddon, co. Bucks;  
Gifford, of East Ginge, co. Bucks;  
Giffard, of Hooten Pagnel, co. York;  
Giffard, of Burstall, co. Suffolk;  
Giffard, of Chillington, co. Stafford;  
Giffard, of Whiteladies, co. Stafford;  
Giffard, of Blackladies and Water-Eaton, co. Stafford."

An examination of the book shows that besides these thirty-two branches, to whom separate chapters or sections are given, there are numerous other sub-branches, which are mentioned in these chapters. Thus we see that the family has been exceedingly numerous and scattered. And this feature always makes it much more difficult to trace back an individual lineage.

Our author says: "Giffard of Brimsfield (of whom Giffard of Chillington). Descended from Osberne, who held Brimsley and many other manors in Gloucester and other counties at the date of the Domesday Survey [1085]. Vincent makes Osberne to be son of Hugh, Seigneur de Beuffe, brother of Walter Gif-

fard, second, but I have never seen any authority for this statement. An account of the family will be seen in all the historical peerages."

The arms of the Giffards of Chillington is said "from time immemorial to have been: 'Azure, three stirrups with leather or.' "

The writer regrets that a careful examination of this book failed to give any clew or solution to the English descent of the Giffords in America.

In Lyson's *Magna Britannica* (Va. State Library), vol. 1, Part. 1, p. 10, Bedfordshire, we are told: "At the time of the Norman survey [for the *Domesday Book*] among the principal landowners of this county was Walter Giffard, who had six manors. In Cholsey parish, in the hundred of Reading, at Moulsoford by the Thames' side, on the road from Wallingford to Reading, is a chapel of ease, in which are some monuments of the Giffard family. William Giffard, Esqr., who died in 1694, was the first president of Fort St. George in Africa."

We find here also statements relating to the earliest Giffards, which have been included in our earlier pages.

The following is the complete reference in Lower's *Dictionary of Family Names* (Virginia State Library), p. 128, mentioned on page 70. "Gifford, Giffard. The old historical Giffards of Normandy and England descended from the De Bollebecs, who were connected by marriage with Richard I, Duke of Normandy. Walter, son of Osborne de Bollebec, though surnamed Giffard, or the Liberal, seems also to have been conservative in the acquisition and retention of lands; for he got not only the fair domain of Longueville, near Dieppe, from Richard II of Normandy, who created him Count de Longueville, but also the Earldom of Buckingham, with above a hundred manors in various counties of England from William I, whom he had accompanied, to the conquest of that country. In Leland's time there were four 'notable houses' of Gifford remaining in England, in the counties of Devon, Southampton, Stafford, and Buckingham. At the present time the only one of these existing is the Staffordshire family, whose ancestors mar-

ried the heiress of Corbosone, of Chillington, which has ever since been the abode of his posterity. (Shirley's *Noble and Gentlemen of England*)."

#### ARMS AND CREST OF THE GIFFARD FAMILY.

In *Giffard Genealogy*, by Harry E. Giffard, Pinkham Press, Wollaston, Mass., 1896, a compilation of the names of the family in Massachusetts, which does not include or refer to our New Jersey family, a red shield with three lions, is given, and stated to be the coat of arms of Walter Giffard, Earl of Longueville, in Normandy. This is an error. At the time of this nobleman coats of arms were not in use. William the Conqueror had no coat of arms and his shield was plain, and they did not come into use until a hundred years after the Battle of Hastings, when this custom was slowly introduced. (Encl. Br., Vol. XI, p. 683; English Heraldry, Ch. Boutell, London, 1904, pp. 5 and 6). In the latter book, page 89, we are given this same shield as the arms of John Giffard without stating which John Giffard. The technical description of this is: "Or, three lions passant sable."

In our study of the various lineages of families of Giffards in England we find that quite a variety of coats of arms and crests have been in use.

The Chillington family seem to have used two crests; 1st, A demie-archer proper, bearded and couped at the knees, from the middle a short coat paly argent and gules, at his side a quiver of arrows or, and in his hands a bow drawn to the head and an arrow, also or. 2nd, A tiger's head couped or, spotted of various colours affrontée, fire issuing from the mouth gules. Motto, *Prenez haleine, tirez fort.*

The Giffards of Ireland (one branch) used: A sphinx garnet wings addorsed proper.

Those of county Wexford, Ireland, used: A cock's head, erased or.

The Giffards of Scotland used: A deer's head couped proper.

Another Scotch family used: A cock's head, erased, or.

Barons Giffard, of St. Leonards, co. Devon, used: A panther's head couped affronté, between two branches of oak proper. Motto, *Non sine numine*.

The Giffords of Shropshire used: A goat's head erased, argent.

Another Gifford family, not described, used: An arm couped at the elbow, vested or, charged with two bars wavy azure, cuffed argent, holding in the hand proper a buck's head, cabossed gules.

Gifford, Bart. (extinct) of Castle Jordan, co. Meath, Ireland; Crest, A cubit arm erect, vertyed gules, slashed and cuffed argent, the hand proper holding four roses of the first, seeded or, stalked and barbed vert. Motto, *Malo mori quam foedari*.

Gifford, Ireland, A dexter cubit arm in armour embowed, holding in the hand a gilliflower, all proper. Motto, *Potius mori quam foedari*.

There are from Fairbank's *Crests*.

For the shield and crest combined from *Armorial Families*, Fox Davis, 1902, we get:

Baron Gifford, of St. Leonards: Shield, azure, a chevron, between three stirrups, with leather or, within a bordure engrailed, argent, semée of pellets. Crest (as described).

Gifford of Ballysop, Ireland: Argent, ten torteaux, four, three, two, and one. Crest, an arm, &c.

Gifford of Chillington, Quarterly, 1st and 4th, azure, three stirrups with leathers or, 2nd and 3rd, gules, three lions passant in pale argent. Crest: A tiger's head, &c., (as described).

Gifford of Brightley: Sable, three lozenges (diamond shaped), conjoined, in fesse, ermine. Crest: A cock's head, &c. (as described).

An examination of this list shows that the arms of the different branches of the Gifford family exhibit such great variations, that no feature may be used as the common designation of the family, and the writer does not know of any form, which has been used by the family in America, except a crest sent us by Miss Ellen Gifford, consisting of a gloved hand couped above the elbow, on a wreath, holding a leaved flower, apparently a

lilly, with the motto, "*Non sine numine.*" It was found by her in a lot of old Gifford papers, and is supposed to be the crest of our New Jersey family. It will be found on our Gifford title page.

Coats of arms are often of great value in tracing back family lineage, and in identifying the connection of branches of a family, and hence we have made this enumeration. We see that several branches of Giffords used a crest with the arm couped or cut off at the elbow with the hand, but one hand holds a buck's head, another four roses, and another a gilliflower. The last may be the same as Miss Ellen Gifford's crest with the hand holding a lily, but except that the crests with the arm and hand seem to have been used by Giffords in Ireland we get no help from this.

These various items of information show that the Gifford family was widely scattered in England, Scotland, Ireland, and apparently also in Wales.

Later, in *The London Graphic* of December 17th, 1921, we find a brief interesting sketch of Hardinge Stanley Giffard, first Earl of Halsbury, who died on Sunday, Dec. 11th, 1921, which is as follows: "Hardinge Stanley Giffard, first Earl of Halsbury, who died on Sunday morning in his ninety-eighth year, was half Irish and a man of remarkable vitality. Called to the bar in 1850, and entering parliament in 1877, he became Lord Chancellor in 1885. His first term as Lord Chancellor in 1885 was brief, but he served again from 1886 to 1892, and from 1895 to 1905—a longer period than any previous Chancellor served, except Lord Eldon. His only son and successor has followed him into law. The new Countess is the daughter of Lady Duff-Gordon ("Lucile") by her first husband and a niece of Eleanor Glyn." Pictures are given of the late Lord Halsbury, and of his son, the new Earl of Halsbury and his countess and two children. We mention them here as present day Giffards of prominence in England. And the pictures have been filed in our Skelton papers.

The preceding pages give the result of our survey of the Giffards in Normandy and England. They are not exhaustive

and come only from those records which have been available to us. There are doubtless many others, and much more of their history might be written. The family has furnished many other men of prominence, whose careers might be described. But we seem to have here enough of their history to give us a knowledge of their position and class in England. Unfortunately we cannot definitely trace back our New Jersey family to their English ancestors, there being many branches of the family there, and we will have to be content with this survey, and a brief statement of our knowledge of our branch of the family in America.

#### THE DUCHESS GUNNORA.

Tracing back the Giffard descent to a period before the Norman Conquest, we get into a very interesting family of people, whose history is striking. We have found that Walter Giffard, I, was a son of Osbern de Bolbec and Avilena, a sister of the Duchess Gunnora, wife of Duke Richard I, of Normandy. The family of this Duchess Gunnora was very remarkable for the beauty of its daughters, who through their marriages to some of the most prominent of the Norman nobility became ancentresses of many of the very noted early English families. We are told by William of Jumiége: "The Duke [Richard I] married with the Christian rite a very beautiful young girl named Gunnora, daughter of a very noble Danish family." We find also from the same author that her father was "Herfast, a noble Dane," and that she had a brother, also Herfast, and at least two sisters, Woeva or Eva, and Avilena. Gunnora was a very notable character among the earlier historians of this period. She was married to Duke Richard I, of Normandy, 942-996, and was the mother of Duke Richard II, Emma, "The Pearl of Normandy," and at least six other children. Emma was also celebrated for her personal beauty, and married in 1002 Ethelred II, Saxon king of England (978-1013), third in descent from Alfred the Great. Of her two sons by this marriage Edward, and Alfred, Edward became king of England, as Edward the Confessor, the so-called last

Saxon king of England, but he was essentially Norman, having been brought up at the Norman court. Later, after Ethelred's death, she married Canute I, the Danish king of England, and had a son, Hardicanute, who succeeded his father as king of England, and later his older brother Edward became "King Edward the Confessor."

Her brother, Herfast, also had a family of at least six children. One son, Osbern de Crepon, was the father of William, Earl of Hereford, said to be the nearest personal friend of William the Conqueror. Of the five daughters, whose names, except that of the youngest, Sibell, we do not know, one married William of Warren, Earl of Surry; another married Nicolas de Basqueville, the writer's ancestor; a third married Richard Viscount de Rouen; a fourth married Osmund de Centville, Viscount de Vernon; and the last, Sibell, married Hugh Mont Gomerei, all of Normandy and famous men of their time. An interesting history might be given of each one of them.

One of the sisters of the Duchess Gunnora, Woeva or Eva, married Turolfe de Pontaudemer, a descendant of the Danish kings, and the ancestor of the Beaumonts, "noblest and wealthiest and most valiant lords of Normandy."

A second sister of the Duchess Gunnora, Avilena or Duvelina, married Osbern de Bolbec, and was the mother of Walter Giffard, Lord of Longueville, Osberne Giffard, founder of the Chillington family, and Godefroy or Geffroy, grandfather of Guilliaumne de Tancarville, all prominent nobles of the period. Thus we see that our family of Giffards can authoritatively claim the Duchess Gunnora as a great aunt, and her distinguished descendants and those of her other nieces and nephew as cousins, and there were many very distinguished people among them, including the ducal line of Normandy and the royal line of England. The writer has been much interested and entertained in tracing the branches of this family, and presents a chart showing more in detail the various offshoots, which will possibly interest some persons. A closer study of the names will show that they are chiefly of historical prominence, including that of Gifford, as we think we have shown.



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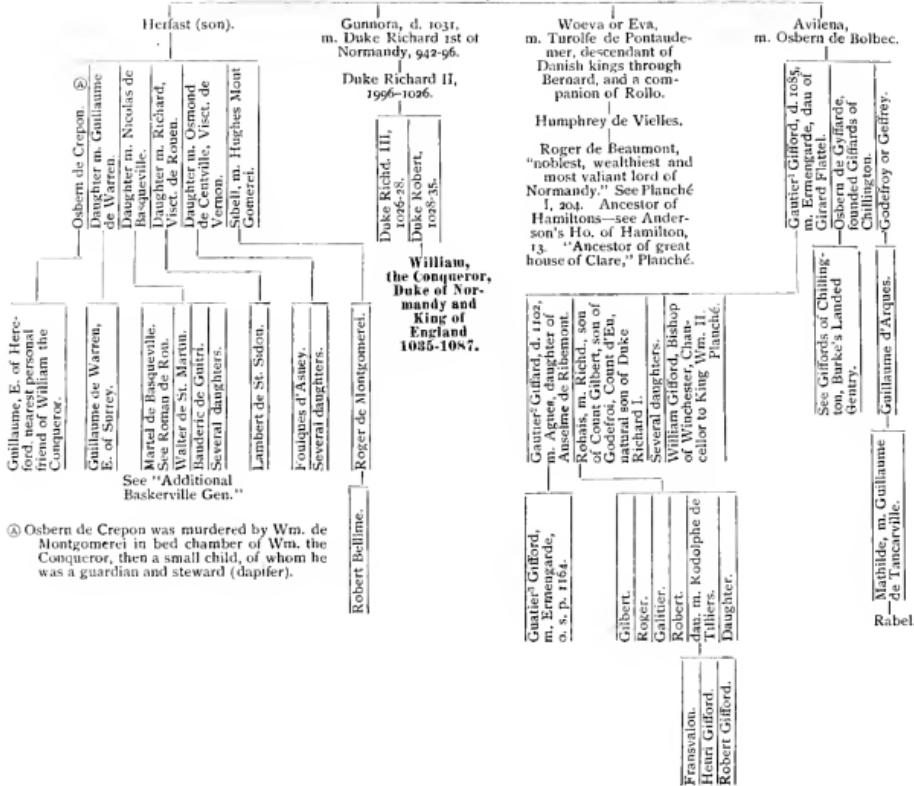
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# CHART IV

## GUNNORA TABLE

"Herfast, a noble Dane."





The earlier tracings of the descents of the branches of the Gifford family are neither distinct, definite, nor satisfactory. Nor can we definitely trace the American Giffords back to England. But we can be reasonably sure that this family of people, whom we have been following, is that of our English ancestors, and therefore of much interest to us.

Planché in his *The Conqueror and His Companions* tells us: "Next to Charlemagne the Duchess Gunnora appears to have been the favorite starting point for our Norman genealogists."

#### THE SURVIVAL OF NORMAN FAMILIES.

This brings us to another interesting subject, the survival of old Norman families.

It seems to be a well known fact that among the titled nobility of England we do not find many instances of this. Of course we cannot attempt to give a list of them, but we may mention the names of Nevill, Howard, Fitzgerald, Hamilton, Devereux, Courtenay, Butler and Douglas. "The sound of their names is the echo of the war trumpet of the middle ages." It is a well known fact that the present titled nobility have been to a very great extent created within the last two hundred years—men having been ennobled for great service to the state, either political or military. And we see the statements that in many cases titles have been bought and conferred for large sums of money—Millbank says: "Ancient lineage? Why, I never heard of a peer with ancient lineage. The real old families of Britain are to be found among the peasantry. The gentry too may lay claim to old blood." Of course this is not accurately so, but shows only a partial condition.

From *The London Graphic* of July 29th, 1922, we get the following: "Of course in these are the peerage men with all kinds of antecedents. We have brewer peers, and soap peers, and tobacco and shipping peers, says Mr. A. G. Gardener in *John Bull* (London). And he sees some mitigation in the fact that 'every great brewer, soap-boiler or shipowner is not a peer.'"

A much larger number of old Norman families are repre-

sented among the "landed gentry," to whom the vicissitudes of life have been less destructive, and who have not been elevated as a method of reward by kings and premiers to their political followers, or a method of raising money for their political purposes.

The famous Battle Abbey Roll, of which a copy may be seen in the Virginia State Library, has been considered somewhat a criterion in this matter. Of it Barber in his *British Family Names* says: "Of the great array of time honoured names very few are now borne by direct representatives. They exist rather among the old gentry than in the peerage. In the majority of cases the later descendants of illustrious families have sunk into poverty and obscurity, unconscious of their origin, and this was more likely to be the case with the younger branches, since the name or title of the family went with the elder line, that inherited the estates.

"There was such a roll suspended in the great hall of the building, and it bore the names of 645 knights, but it has disappeared long ago, as well as the other relics of the battle, which were removed to Cowdray and perished in the fire of 1793.

"There are several copies more or less imperfect. The lists which appear to be more or less authentic are:

"Duchesne's list, taken from the abbey charter, containing 405 names;

"Leland's collection, with 498 names;

"Magny's catalogue, with 425 names; and

"Delisle's, with 485 names."

These are all of much later date than the conquest.

"It is well known that the heralds of the 14th and 15th centuries were not scrupulous in adding names to the list."

The following quotation from the preface of Fox-Davis' *Armorial Families*, page VII, 1902, (Va. State Library), of which the first sentence is not to be taken literally, gives us some information on this subject: "If an ordinary individual tell you he is descended in the male line from some one who figures upon the glorious Roll of Battle Abbey, or that his

ancestor 'came over with the Conqueror,' write him down a perverter of the truth at once. Mr. Evelyn Philip Shirley published some number of years ago a book which deserves a greater name and a far wider reputation than it has received. I refer to *The Noble and Gentle Men of England*. He took a far less ambitious standpoint than the Norman Conquest, simply including within his covers all those then Arms-bearing families, who had held their land in legitimate uninterrupted male descent since the reign of Henry VII to the present day. Of all the landholders of to-day; of all the county families within and without the pages of Walford [his *County Families*]; of all the names in Burke's *Peerage*, or in Kelly's *Upper Ten Thousand*, how many families titled or untitled together, think you, does this book contain? Three hundred and thirty. Some number of the very old families are Saxon, but the great majority only take their start from the "Wars of the Roses" [1455-1485], that great social upheaval, which shook to its very foundation the aristocracy of England. Read *De Nova Villa* [a history of the Neville family, in the Library of Congress], and read the *Last of the Barons* [Bulwer], if you wish to know what became of the ancient families of England. Of the twenty-five barons, who affixed their seals to 'Magna Charta', of which we so proudly boast, not a solitary proved male descendant is known to exist.

"Fuller writing in his book, *Worthies of Bedfordshire*, says: 'Hungry Time hath made a glutton's meal on this Catalogue of Gentry (the list of gentry of the reign of Henry VI), and hath left but a very little morsel for manners remaining.'

"The pedigrees in Burke's *Peerage* are lax enough, but even there only one hundred and eleven are taken back to the time of the Norman Conquest, and of these forty-nine are Saxon, Welsh, and Scottish, or Irish. There are nearly seven hundred peers and over eleven hundred baronets and all their relations within the covers of Burke's *Peerage*; there are nearly five thousand families in the *Landed Gentry*, and all their relations; there are sixteen thousand names in Walford's *County Families*; there are twenty-four thousand names in Kelly's. As I have

said, only sixty-two pedigrees in the *Peerage* are taken back to the Normans, and Shirley admits but three hundred and thirty families. The deduction is obvious.

“The first point I wished to draw attention to is the wholesale display of bogus Arms—perhaps I should be more correct in saying the wholesale bogus display of arms. These as I have previously stated are of two kinds: 1. Arms which apart from the question of ownership are of no legal origin. 2. Legal arms used by people to whom they do not belong. The latter predominate. [Then follows a treatment of the question what constitutes the right to bear arms.]

The following interesting extract is from the preface to Burke's *Landed Gentry*: “The Landed Gentry, the untitled Aristocracy of England, Ireland, and Scotland, is a class unexampled and unrivalled in Europe. Invested with no hereditary titles, but inheriting landed estates transmitted from generation to generation, in some instances from the periods of the Conquest and the Plantagenets, this class has held and continues to hold the foremost place in each county. A right to arms [use of arms] sometimes of remote antiquity, sometimes of modern acquisition, serves to supply the want of an hereditary dignity, and is a rallying point, around which are collected the various members of a family. *'Nobiles sunt qui arma gentilitia antecessorum suorum proferre possunt.'* The tenure of land was in the olden time the test of rank and position, and even now in the nineteenth century it remains the same. The Scropes, Foljambes, and Wentworths still hold their own in Yorkshire; the Giffards, Sneyds, and Fitz-Herberts in Staffordshire; the Nevilles in Lincolnshire; the Leghs in Cheshire, &c. I mention a few of the counties, but in all the same fact is found.”

Thus we see that our study of this subject has brought us back to the Giffards, and that they are among the few, the very few, who can trace back in the male line not only to the Conquest, but to a period much before that event.

## CHAPTER VII

# THE GIFFORDS IN AMERICA

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In our search for Gifford history we find interesting references in Parkman's histories of the French settlement of Canada to people of that name. In his *Jesuits in North America*, page 90, footnote, we are told: "The settlement of Beauport was begun this year (1634) or the year following, by Sieur Giffard, to whom a large tract had been granted here (Langevin, Notes sur les Archives de N. D. de Beauport, 5)." Beauport is on the north bank of the St. Lawrence river a short distance below Quebec, between that city and the Falls of Montmorency. On page 247 we are told, as of 1640: "The country around Quebec was still an unbroken wilderness, with the exception of a small clearing made by the Sieur Giffard on his seigniory of Beauport," and one or two others. And on page 433 we find in a description of Quebec in 1645, by the Father Superior of the house of Jesuits, mention of "M. Giffard," who was evidently an important person in the community. In a footnote we are told: "Giffard was seigneur of Beauport, and a member of the Council. Des Châtelets was one of the earliest settlers, and connected by marriage with Giffard." In Parkman's *The Old Regime in Canada*, page 195, note, we are told: "Michelle-Thérèse Nau married Joseph, son of Robert Giffard, on 22nd October, 1663"; and "Giffard was also father in law of Juchereau." On page 291 we are told: "In 1634 the physician Giffard brought over seven to people his seigniory of Beauport." And again on page 299 we find mention of "Beauport, the seigniory of the ex-physician Giffard, one of the earliest proprietors in Canada"; and "The census of 1667 gives to \* \* \* Beauport 123 souls. \* \* \* There were seventy houses at Quebec."

In Parkman's *Montcalm and Wolf*, volume II, page 443, we find in an extract from a letter from the Marquis de Montcalm to Madame de Montcalm, at Montreal, of June 6, 1757, the following: "Des compliments \* \* \* aux Givard," showing the Giffards were still in Canada at that time, and of sufficient social prominence to be friends of the Marquis.

We gather from these statements that Robert Giffard, a physician, of high social position, and at least after his settlement, of large financial means, emigrated from France, and acquired his large "seigniory" of Beauport in 1634; that he was a prominent man in the colony, and that the family retained this position, certainly for more than a hundred years. It has been suggested that our Gifford family may have descended from them. The writer has not sufficient information to form an intelligent opinion in regard to this, but the family have believed that they are descended from the English Giffords.

Looking to other sources we find from the *United States Catalogue of Books in Print* mention of nine authors named Gifford, showing there have been many literary men among them.

We have found and purchased a book, *Gifford Genealogy*, 1826-1896, by Harry E. Gifford, of Wollaston, Mass., containing only the names of Giffords of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, and dates, without any history of them, or their English connections. Our branch of the family seems to have been unknown to the author, and there are no connecting links whatever. These New England Giffords are very numerous, sufficiently so to fill a hundred pages of names.

Our information of our own branch of the Gifford family is obtained from two sources. First we have a Gifford family tree made by Mrs. Baskerville's sister, Annie Skelton, who married Walter Miles. Of this tree she made two copies, the first of which was given to Misses Ellen and Louisa Gifford, of Newark, N. J., and we have the second, made in 1886. In a note on the tree it is stated of Hannah Crane, who married John Gifford, that "Such reverence had she for 'The Book'





MRS. JOHN GIFFORD,  
née Hannah Crane,  
born 1757, died 1830.

[Bible] that she always stood while reading it. This was the testimony of her granddaughter, Mrs. Anna Miller Bruen, in 1910, who was then 88 years old." The information in regard to the earliest names on this tree was given by Mrs. Baskerville's great aunts, Miss Mary Gifford and Mrs. Susan Chapman, whose names may be found on our table. These ladies were born in 1783 and 1790, so that their personal recollections went very far back. Miss Mary Gifford died in 1876.

Another source of information consists of letters, charts, &c., from Misses Ellen and Louisa Gifford, of Newark, N. J., granddaughters of John and Hannah (Crane) Gifford, the former being now deceased. The crest on our Gifford title page was sent by them, "came with papers on the subject," but we do not know the character of these papers.

ARCHER<sup>1</sup> GIFFORD, the first of our family in this country, was born of English parents in Cardiganshire, *Wales*, and came to America between 1756 and 1763. He is said to have descended from the Giffords of "Job's Well," Cardiganshire, Wales. He went to Canada, and died there during the time of the French war in the service of Great Britain. There he married Catherine Waldron, of French descent, whose mother's family name was "De Blois." There may be found in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register (magazine) of January, 1913, (in the Va. State Library), page 6, under the heading "Old Boston Families," a genealogical history of "The De Blois Family." But after careful examination the writer could not find any connection with the mother of MRS. ARCHER<sup>1</sup> GIFFORD, although a part of the family lived in Boston, and a part in Nova Scotia. The family was prominent and the sketch interesting, and possibly some one else can make more of it. A copy of the sketch has been purchased, and may be found in our Skelton Papers.

ARCHER<sup>1</sup> GIFFORD, as stated, joined the English army in Canada and fought against the French. He died there of small-pox. His widow married again a man named Welsh.

ARCHER<sup>1</sup> GIFFORD, and his wife, CATHERINE WALDRON, left at least three children,

JOHN<sup>2</sup>, m. HANNAH CRANE;

Archer<sup>2</sup>, m. Experience Atwood;

Susan<sup>2</sup>, m. Alexander Forbes, of England.

Archer<sup>2</sup> married Experience Atwood, who died July 13th, 1810, in the 48th year of her age after a lingering illness. He was a lawyer, fond of books, cultivated and had a good library. He gave his nephew, Archer<sup>3</sup>, son of his brother JOHN<sup>2</sup>, an excellent classical education. He died of dropsy without children in November, 1811, in the fifty-third year of his age. He is mentioned in Washington Irving's "Salmagundi" of February 24th, 1807. The reference has no particular value except perhaps to indicate that he was a well known man in Newark, and probably in New York at that time.

From *Appleton's Cyclopedie of American Biography*, vol. II, p. 643, (Va. State Lib.); we get of him: "Archer<sup>2</sup> Gifford, lawyer, b. in Newark, N. J., in 1797, d. there 12th May, 1859. He was graduated at Princeton in 1814, admitted to the bar in 1818, and practised in Newark. He was appointed by President Jackson collector of customs for the port of Newark in 1836, held this office during the following twelve years without suffering it to interfere with an extensive practice. He published a *Digest of the Statutory and Constitutional Constructions*, delivered in the Supreme Court of Errors and Appeals of N. J. (1852), *Unity of the Liturgy*, and contributed to periodical literature."

Susan<sup>2</sup> Gifford married Alexander Forbes of England, and they afterwards settled on a farm near Perth Amboy.

CAPT. JOHN<sup>2</sup> GIFFORD, our great grandfather, was born in 1753. He is said to have learned a trade, but left it. He obtained a position in a court in Newark, afterwards became Sheriff of the county and held this office eleven years. He married HANNAH<sup>5</sup> CRANE, daughter of JOSEPH<sup>4</sup> and PATIENCE CRANE. The latter's maiden name was PATIENCE CRANE, and she was of the same stock as her husband. This family was from the "Pilgrims" of Connecticut, descendants of JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE, a party of whom became dissatisfied, branched off, and settled at Newark, N. J. They were farmers. The family was conspicuous, and has continued so to the present time, there being many prominent men in it. See Crane Family on page 89.

CAPTAIN JOHN<sup>2</sup> GIFFORD died of paralysis on June 28th,

1821, aged sixty-eight, and his wife, HANNAH CRANE, died of bilious fever on February 6th, 1830, in her seventy-third year.

They had at least eight children, viz:

1. CATHARINE<sup>3</sup> WALDRON GIFFORD, m. DR. ENNION W. SKELTON;
2. Mary<sup>3</sup>, b. 1783, d. 1876, unmarried;
3. Alexander<sup>3</sup>, d. in infancy;
4. Sarah<sup>3</sup>, m. 1st Benj. Whitaker, 2nd Robt. Johnson;
5. Anna<sup>3</sup> Maria (Nancy), m. W. P. Miller;
6. Patience<sup>3</sup>, born about 1787, m. Robt. Johnson (2nd wife);
7. Susan<sup>3</sup> Forbes, born about 1791, m. Jas. Chapman, d. 1882;
8. Archer<sup>3</sup>, born about 1796, m. Louisa Camman.

On January 30th, 1807, the last three were baptized by Rev. J. Willard, Patience<sup>3</sup> being then twenty years old, Susan<sup>3</sup> sixteen, and Archer<sup>3</sup> eleven. And the father in the record was called "CAPT. JOHN<sup>2</sup> GIFFORD of Princeton, N. J." Their older sister, CATHARINE<sup>3</sup>, then MRS. E. W. SKELTON of Genito, Powhatan Co., Va., and their uncle and aunt, Archer<sup>2</sup> and Experience Gifford, were witnesses and sponsors. (This shows that the family were Episcopalians). We do not know that this list of children is in correct order as to precedence of birth.

Alexander<sup>3</sup> died in early infancy.

There is a record in an old almanac of 1791 in the Historical Society of New York of "Alexander Gifford. Golden Hill." In 1790 there was a Gifford at 46 Maiden Lane. Whether these were the same person, or any kin to the first Archer Gifford, we do not know, but, as before stated, one of the children of John Gifford, who is said to have died in infancy, was named Alexander. Of the children of John<sup>2</sup> Gifford, CATHARINE<sup>3</sup> married DR. ENNION<sup>3</sup> W. SKELTON, formerly of Princeton, N. J., and they went to Genito, Powhatan Co., Va., to which place he had moved in 1802.

Mary<sup>3</sup> was born in 1783, and died in 1876, in her 94th year. She always lived in Newark, where with the help of her sister she established the first Episcopal Sunday school, and kept it

up for many years, until it became well established and was formed into a congregation.

Patience<sup>3</sup> married Robert Johnson of Philadelphia, and died of pneumonia.

Sarah<sup>3</sup> married Benjamin Whitaker, and was left a widow with two sons. Late in life she married Robert Johnson, the widower of her sister Patience<sup>3</sup>, and died Nov. 20, 1862, of pneumonia. The children of Patience<sup>3</sup> and Robert Johnson were (7), Harriet<sup>4</sup>, Susan<sup>4</sup>, Mary<sup>4</sup>, m. — Maxwell (2 children), Gifford<sup>4</sup>, m. — Anderson (5 children), Sarah<sup>4</sup>, m. Rev. Robt. Mitcheson (3 children), Helen<sup>4</sup>, m. — Peebles (1 child), Louisa<sup>4</sup>, m. James Chapman (7 children).

The children of Sarah<sup>3</sup> and Benjamin Whitaker were (2) William<sup>4</sup>, m. Augusta Durbin (1 child), and Henry<sup>4</sup> (unmarried). The names of these grandchildren will be found on a table preceding this statement. Sarah<sup>3</sup> and Robert Johnson had no children.

Susan Forbes<sup>3</sup> Gifford married Thomas Chapman, a lawyer of Camden, N. J. She died on Feby. 7, 1882, in her 93rd year. She had no children.

Anna (Nancy) Maria<sup>3</sup> Gifford was married to William P. Miller of Morristown on Thursday, June 23rd, 1818, by Rev. J. Willard. Their children were (3) Anna<sup>4</sup>, m. Rev. James Bruen (1 child and 2 grandchildren), Archer<sup>4</sup> m. Amelia Bicknell (6 children), William<sup>4</sup> m. Jane W. McIntire (no children).

Archer<sup>3</sup> married Louisa Camman. He was the youngest, born March 10th, 1798, died of bronchitis on May 12th, 1859. Their children were (11) Judge Charles<sup>4</sup> L. C. Gifford m. Mattoaca Murray of Powhatan Co., Va. (6 children), John<sup>4</sup>, Ellen<sup>4</sup>, m. —, John<sup>4</sup> m. Mary Alling (6 children), Mary<sup>4</sup>, George<sup>4</sup> m. Virginia Smith (4 children), Oswald<sup>4</sup>, F. Louisa<sup>4</sup>, L. Charlotte<sup>4</sup>, Archer<sup>4</sup>, Philip<sup>4</sup> m. Emma Passamore (1 child). The table of descent will show these branches more fully.

The children of CATHARINE WALDRON<sup>3</sup> GIFFORD and DR. ENNION<sup>3</sup> W. SKELTON are described in the Skelton Family, p. 36 and f.

# THE CRANE FAMILY



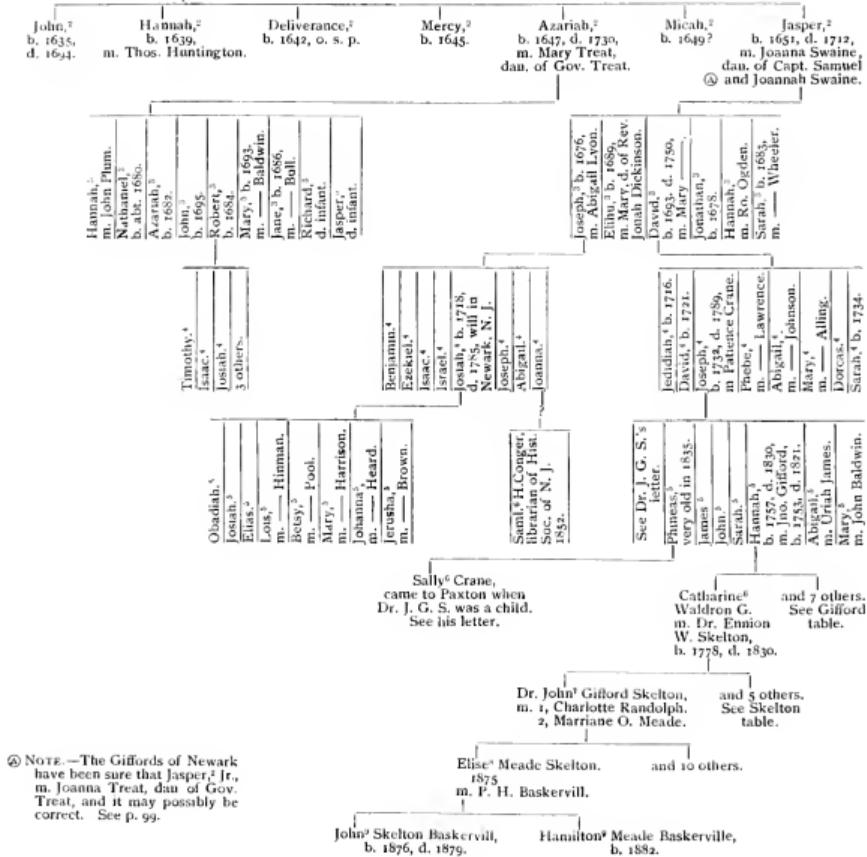




## CHART V

#### CRANE FAMILY

Jasper<sup>1</sup> Crane, Immigrant, New Haven 1639, went to Newark 1667, died about 1681.



④ NOTE.—The Giffords of Newark have been sure that Jasper,<sup>2</sup> Jr., m. Joanna Treat, dau. of Gov. Treat, and it may possibly be correct. See p. 99.



## CHAPTER VIII

# THE CRANE FAMILY IN ENGLAND

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HANNAH<sup>5</sup> CRANE, born 1757, died 1830, married JOHN<sup>6</sup> GIFFORD, born 1753, died 1821.

Our information of the Crane family is derived from four principal sources, first a chart of the family lineage sent to us by Miss Louisa Gifford, of Newark, N. J.; second from Hinman's *Early Puritan Settlers*, Hartford, 1852, a standard history, in the Virginia State Library; third from *Genealogy of the Crane Family*, by Hon. Ellery B. Crane, Worcester, Mass., 1895-1900, a very recent acquisition (1920); and fourthly from a series of articles in the New York Times beginning April 24th, 1916, by J. Wilmer Kennedy, Asst. Supt. of Newark Public Schools, relating to the settlement of Newark, N. J., and a celebration of its 250th anniversary.

*The Genealogy of the Crane Family* (third) is a very well arranged book, and has much new information, but does not contain much personal history. An examination of it has made it necessary for us to revise materially our Crane sketch previously written. The following is a summary of the history of the family in England, taken from this book.

"The Cranes in England are classed among the families belonging to the county of Suffolk," although "numerous families bearing the name may be found residents of other counties." Here they began in 1382 with William Crane, of Stowmarket, who married Margaret, daughter and co-heir of Sir Andrew Butler, Knight, of Chilton, in the Hundred of Stow. Numerous pedigrees of this branch are recorded, collected in 1561-1577 and 1611 to delineate the line of Chilton, covering a

period of about 300 years, and going back five generations prior to the settlement of Chilton.

This line "begins with Sir Thomas<sup>1</sup> Crane, Knight, who married Ada, sister to Giles de Kerdiston," no dates given, and proceeds through thirteen generations to Robert<sup>12</sup> Crane, who married Susan, daughter of Sir Giles Alington, of Cambridgeshire, and had one son Giles, born Dec. 13th, 1632, and died 1639, and five daughters, of the 13th generation. And after his death this line ends.

A more complete history of the line will be found in *Memorials of the Cranes of Chilton*, by Wm. S. Appleton, Cambridge, Mass., 1868, in the Library of Congress.

The name Crane does not appear in the *Domesday Book* of 1086.

In 1547 the family had become quite numerous in England, the greater part of them residing in the county of Norfolk. Among the most prominent of them here were Sir Francis Crane, and his brother, Sir Richard, both of Woodrising. Sir Francis was secretary to Charles I, when Prince of Wales, and was knighted at Coventry, Sept. 4th, 1617, by James I. He was also Chancellor of the Order of the Garter, a mark of special and rare distinction. In 1619 he introduced into England the manufacture of curious tapestry, bringing his workmen from abroad, and in 1625 Charles I became indebted to him £6,000 for three suits of gold tapestry. Raffael's cartoons were copied in tapestry and put up in Hampton Court, where they were to be seen in 1884. He contributed £500 towards the building of St. Paul's Church, London. Many more interesting things are said of him.

Sir Robert<sup>12</sup> Crane, of Chilton, already mentioned, inherited a "vast estate", including "some fourteen manors or farms in twenty-nine or more parishes in Suffolk," when but three years old. In 1641 he signed "the Protestation of May 3rd, 1641, which declares strongly for the Protestant Religion, and the Privileges of Parliament." He died in 1643, being then a member of the House of Commons, and having no male heir, the line ceased, but there were other families of this name in Suffolk.

There was a family of Cranes in Cornwall, originating with John de Crane, who died May 20th, 1503, and seems to have ended with "Richard<sup>10</sup> of Crane," baptized Jany. 14, 1687.

Nicholas Crane was sheriff of London in 1337, and one of the same name, possibly the same person, was alderman of London. Hugo Crane was fifth sheriff of Hampshire in the reign of Richard III, 1377-1399.

There was a Crane family "of Loughton, Buckinghamshire, whose founder, John Crane, was an officer of the household of King James I, and which continued for four generations.

"Another Crane manor was situated at Kidderminster, known as the Habberly House, and has since the time of Queen Elizabeth been in the family, of which Henry Crane, of Oakhampton, Worcestershire, was a descendant, who was Lord of the Manor of Habberly in 1839."

When Oliver Cromwell subjugated Ireland in the Civil War, and distributed land there to some of his soldiers, "among these were some of the name of Crane, who settled there and left descendants bearing their name."

"There was a noted divine, to whom at one time the New Jersey Cranes looked as a possible ancestor, Thomas Crane, M. A., Oxford, a native of Plymouth, where his father was a merchant. He died in 1714 aged 84."

The chapter in the new book is many times longer than this summary and we refer to it for details. Our summary seems to give the general conditions of the family in England.

In the "United States Catalog of Books in Print" we find thirty-six authors of this name. These are doubtless English and American.

In the "National Cyclopedias of American Biography," by Derby, we find sketches of twenty persons of this name, including authors, merchants, artists, surgeons, naval architects, lawyers, manufacturers, clergymen, soldiers, jurists, actors, educators, naval officers, governor, and members of the United States Congress and Senate. These have been sufficiently distinguished to cause the publication of their biographies, and this statement is made to show in a general way the character and standing of the family.



## CHAPTER IX

# THE CRANE FAMILY IN AMERICA

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And now we take up the history of the family in America. Our first information is from the *Genealogy of the Crane Family*.

The earliest of the Cranes in New England appears in 1637. Seven apparently original Crane settlers are on record, viz:

1. John Crane, on record in 1637 in Boston, who must have died or returned to England within a few years;
2. JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE, who removed to New Haven in 1639, Hinman says from Massachusetts. He was the ancestor of our branch of the family, and we shall have a good deal to say about him;
3. Samuel Crane, who was in Dorchester, Mass., in 1640. He also seems to have died or returned shortly to England, but it seems probable that our next, Henry Crane, was his son;
4. Henry Crane, who in 1654 appears in the records of Dorchester and was probably son of the preceding Samuel. He is said to have been born in 1621, probably in England, and married Tabitha Kinsley;
5. Benjamin Crane, of Wethersfield, Conn., was there as early as 1654, and is said to have been a brother of the preceding Henry Crane, and a son of Samuel Crane;
6. Stephen Crane, one of the original settlers of Elizabeth, N. J., was there in 1666. There seems several reasons for thinking that he was a son of JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE, our ancestor;
7. John Crane, another John, who appeared at Coventry or Bolton, Conn., about the year 1712.

Mr. Crane's book gives the lineages of these, except the first and third. These branches are large, and the persons very numerous, so that we must confine our attention to the second, JASPER, and his descendants, our own line.

Of the others we will make brief statements.

Henry Crane<sup>4</sup>, born about 1635, was first engaged with his brother, Benjamin, in Wethersfield, as farmers and tanners.

Stephen Crane<sup>5</sup>, born about 1630 to 1635, tradition says, came from England or Wales between 1640 and 1660, and was one of the original settlers of Elizabeth, N. J. The late Saml. H. Conger (descended from Jasper Crane), librarian of the N. J. Hist. Society, wrote: "This Stephen was probably near related to JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE, of Newark," and that he came from Connecticut to New Jersey before 1664. Others have thought that he was a son or brother of JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE.

John Crane<sup>7</sup> was living in Coventry in 1708, where he had land deeded to him. The author, Mr. Crane, from his investigations thinks that this John Crane of Coventry was a descendant of Benjamin Crane of Wethersfield. The name John is very common among the Cranes in this section.

Of these seven John<sup>1</sup> came and went, and left no trace; Stephen<sup>6</sup> is said to have been a son, or possibly a brother, of JASPER<sup>2</sup>; Henry<sup>4</sup> and Benjamin<sup>5</sup> were sons of Samuel<sup>3</sup>; John<sup>7</sup> is said to have been a descendant of Benjamin<sup>5</sup>. And so we have left only Jasper<sup>2</sup>, Samuel<sup>3</sup>, and possibly Stephen<sup>6</sup>, as the progenitors of the Cranes of New England.

For the lineages (except Jasper's) we must refer to the Crane Genealogy, and pass on to Jasper<sup>1</sup>, the ancestor of our branch.

JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE was much the most conspicuous of the original Crane settlers, and the space given to him in the books is much larger.

And now we take up JASPER CRANE's history from Hinman's *Early Puritan Settlers*.

JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE was one of the first and most important settlers of the New Haven colony. Connecticut was first explored by the Dutch from New Amsterdam (New York), but they

made no settlement until 1633, when they built a fort called the "House of Hope" on the site of Hartford. When the English began to settle in 1633, the Dutch threatened war, but finally sold them the "House of Hope," and the country was opened to the English. A small trading post had been occupied by them at Windsor previous to 1636, but in that year the first permanent settlement was made at Wethersfield, where later a family of Cranes are found.

In 1638 Rev. John Davenport led a company of emigrants, who settled and built New Haven. JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE was evidently among these, as in 1639 he was one of the signers of "the first, and 'fundamental' agreement, on June 4th of that year,—at a general meeting of all the free planters at New Haven at the barn of Mr. Newman." These settlements were made from Massachusetts under the Plymouth charter. A copy of this agreement with the signers will be found in Hinman's *Early Puritan Settlers*, in the Va. State Library, from which most of this sketch is taken.

Tradition says that JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE had the stewardship and oversight of the property of Rev. Jno. Davenport, during the time MR. CRANE remained at New Haven (until 1667.)

We have no information in regard to his wife.

His oldest son, John<sup>2</sup> Crane, was born in 1635, before his father came to New Haven, and he died in Newark in 1694 aged 59.

His (Jasper<sup>1</sup> Crane's) children born at New Haven, are said to have been Hannah<sup>2</sup>, b. 1639, m. Thos. Huntingdon;

Deliverance<sup>2</sup> or Delivered, (a son), b. Jany. 12, 1642;

Mercy<sup>2</sup>, b. Mch. 1 (no year);

Micah<sup>2</sup>, b. Nov. 3, 1647;

Azariah<sup>2</sup>, baptized 1642, d. at Newark Nov. 5th, 1730, aged 83;

JASPER<sup>2</sup>, baptized Apl. 2nd, 1651, d. at Newark Mch. 6, 1712, aged 61;

Belle<sup>2</sup>, —. Nothing more is heard of her.

JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE is noticed at New Haven by Lambert in 1643 with a family of three persons, and an estate of £483. He was

one of those at New Haven, who attempted to settle lands on the Delaware, and was repulsed by the Dutch, natives, Swedes, and Finns. He and his family moved later from New Haven to Branford, where they remained for a long time, when a project was started by him and others to make a new settlement in New Jersey, and in 1665 he and his sons John<sup>2</sup>, Deliverance<sup>2</sup>, and Azariah<sup>2</sup>, and many others from Branford, New London, &c., subscribed an instrument embracing rules for governing their town upon the Passaic river, in the Province of New Jersey (i. e., to settle Newark). It should have been stated previously that in 1639 he was a selectman of the new settlement of New Haven, and in 1641 had a grant of 100 acres of land in the East Meadow. He was one of the first deputies to the "General Court of Electors" from Branford in 1643, and also four years later. And he held many other offices.

In 1667-8 he sold his property at Branford and moved to Newark with his sons, (and doubtless also his daughters and wife). He and Robert Treat were the first magistrates in Newark in 1668-9—also represented Newark in the General Court same year, and also in 1669 and 70. Then Treat returned to Connecticut and became Lieut. Governor of Connecticut in 1676. In 1675 JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE was deputy and magistrate at Newark. He was one of the purchasers of the Kingsland farm, a large tract north of Newark, now Belville. He was ranked with the strong-minded men of Connecticut and New Jersey, and living to an advanced age died in Newark in 1681, as the inventory of his estate was proved then. He, and his sons John<sup>2</sup> and Deliverance<sup>2</sup> had seats in the first meeting house in Newark, (and were rated) Jaspar<sup>1</sup> at £570, John<sup>2</sup> and Deliverance<sup>2</sup> each at £250.

This sketch is in the main taken verbatim from Hinman's book, but I have tried to state facts chronologically, as the book is very much confused in this respect. Also I find some conflict in the dates about the children, which I cannot adjust properly, but this is not of vital importance.

It is stated that JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE had several other children besides John<sup>2</sup> before coming to New Haven, but the names are

not given. John<sup>2</sup>, Deliverance<sup>2</sup>, Azariah<sup>2</sup>, and JASPER<sup>2</sup>, JR., all died at Newark, N. J., John<sup>2</sup> in 1694, Deliverance<sup>2</sup> in —, Azariah<sup>2</sup> in 1730, aged 83, and JASPER<sup>2</sup>, JR., in 1712, aged 61.

It is said that Azariah<sup>2</sup> married Mary Treat, daughter of Gov. Treat, of Connecticut, and there seems to be no doubt of this.

There is a variation in the statements as to whom JASPER<sup>2</sup>, JR., married. The family tradition, as reported by Misses Ellen and Louisa Gifford, is that he married Joanna Treat, daughter of Gov. Treat, and that thus our branch are descendants of Gov. Treat. But in the *Crane Genealogy*, already described, it is stated that he married Joanna Swaine, daughter of Capt. Saml. and Joannah Swaine. Referring to Hinman's book we find statements contradicting each other, as explained later, but the evidence seems to be in favor of the second statement and to show that JASPER<sup>2</sup> CRANE married JOANNA SWAINE, and not Joanna Treat.

Going into detail, we find Hinman's first statement, p. 743, as follows:

"Jasper, Jr., b. Apl. 2nd, 1651, and d. in Newark, N. J., Nov. 5th, 1730, aged 83, m. a dau'r of Governor Treat." The writer at first accepted this as confirming the family tradition, and adopted it. But now a farther examination of Hinman's book shows that there are several other references to the matter, all of which contradict this statement, and also that this first statement has an error in itself, viz: according to the dates of his birth and death he was 79 years old, and not 83. We find that since our last examination of this book some one has pencilled on the margin of the quotation made above "error—refers to Azariah," and the following shows that this is correct. On page 747 we find in a list of the children of Jasper, Sr.:

"4. Azariah, b. 1647, son of JASPER, SR., d. Nov. 5th, 1730, aged 83. He m. Mary, dau'r. of Robt. Treat;

"5. JASPER, JR., b. at East Haven, April 2, 1651, \* \* \* d. March 16, 1712, aged 61;"

And again on page 746: "Azariah, another son of JASPER, SR., m. a dau'r. of Gov. Treat, and d. at Newark Nov. 5th, 1730, aged 83."

A comparison of these passages seem to show conclusively that the first refers to Azariah<sup>2</sup> and not JASPER<sup>2</sup>, JR., and that Hinman, after we make this correction, does not state whom JASPER<sup>2</sup>, JR., married.

And confirming this, our more recent *Genealogy of the Crane Family* states (vol. II, p. 304), that JASPER<sup>2</sup> CRANE married JOANNA SWAINE, daughter of CAPT. SAMUEL and JOHANNAH SWAINE.

Taking these things into consideration we have concluded to accept the statement in the *Crane Genealogy*, that he married JOANNA SWAINE, and to admit that the descent from Gov. Treat seems to be an error.

There is a second variation, but of much less importance. Our previous information has been that Joseph<sup>4</sup> Crane's wife and the mother of Hannah<sup>5</sup> Crane, wife of John<sup>2</sup> Gifford, was *Hannah Crane*. This information was taken from our Gifford family tree and was obtained from Miss Mary Gifford, and her sister, Mrs. Susan Chapman, daughters of Mrs. Hannah Crane Gifford. But our new book calls her *Patience Crane*. This is not of vital importance, and we state the case and leave it. Most probably the name was Patience.

In regard to JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE, SR., the new account conforms to our previous sketch, chiefly from Hinman, with here and there additional items. The tradition was that he came from London to America, but extensive research in the record offices in London failed to find any trace of him.

The people of Newark showed their high appreciation of his invaluable services by appointing him to the highest and most responsible offices, and after his death continued the same thing with his sons John<sup>2</sup>, Azariah<sup>2</sup>, and JASPER<sup>2</sup>, JR.

"One branch of his descendants located westward from Newark and five or six miles distant, calling the place Crantown [Montclair]. And some of his descendants located four miles southward of Newark at a place called Elizabeth Town. Among those who settled there was Stephen Crane [previously mentioned], who there is good reason to believe was an elder son of JASPER<sup>1</sup>, SR., born in England about 1630."

There are some additional details too long to be included here.

The family of JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE, SR., and his descendants evidently had a great deal of real estate in and around Newark. JOHN<sup>2</sup> GIFFORD, who married HANNAH<sup>3</sup> CRANE, born 1757, is said to have inherited "through his wife" large landed property here.

The continued use of Biblical names in the family for so long a time seems unusual.

Apparently the Skeltons of Paxton have had little or no personal knowledge of their Crane relatives, or intercourse with them. The only exception within the writer's information is given in the following extract from DR. JOHN<sup>4</sup> G. SKELTON'S letter of April 15th, 1920, filed in our Skelton Papers, volume II, viz: "In 1835 I went to Orange [N. J.] to see my grandmother's brother, Mr. Phineas Crane, then a very old man. I saw at his house Miss Sallie Crane, his daughter, whom I recollect to have seen at Paxton while on a visit to my mother. She was very much pleased to see me, and I had a pleasant visit. Miss Sallie lives in Orange still, I think." These names will be found in our Crane table.

Our table is made chiefly from the chart sent us by Miss Louisa Gifford, with some names added from the Crane Genealogy.



## CHAPTER X

# THE FOUNDING OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

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And now we take up the sketch from *The New York Times*, of 1916, thinking it worthy of a special summary. When this was written several years ago, we had accepted our only information then, that JASPER<sup>2</sup> CRANE, JR., married Joanna Treat, daughter of Robert Treat, and that these were our ancestors, and we gave the latter a conspicuous place in our summary. We have concluded to retain it just as we wrote it, as it is interesting, and all of it has more or less bearing upon the history of our ancestor JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE.

The following is our summary of the first part of the sketch which refers to Robert Treat and JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE.

There was held in Newark, N. J., from May to October, inclusive, 1916, an elaborate celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of that city. And there appeared in *The New York Times*, beginning April 24th, 1916, a series of seven articles descriptive of the founding and early growth of the city, by J. Wilmer Kennedy, Assistant Superintendent of Newark Public Schools, which contained a great deal of interesting information in regard to Governor Robert Treat, and his assistant leader, JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE. We have on file the parts of these articles which refer to these two men, one an ancestor and the other his close friend, and we record here a summary of the statements, partly in direct quotation and partly summarized.

"Newark was a religious plantation. It represented the last push westward of the Puritans in their attempt to realize their dream of a Church-State."

It is true that the Puritans left England in order to obtain religious freedom. But when they had settled in a new coun-

try and obtained this freedom for themselves, they denied it to others, and attempted to establish a close church political government of their own to which no one else was admitted.

"The Puritan exodus to America had no such purpose as the establishment of religious freedom, as we understand that term to-day. The pages of the history of Europe in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries are stained with the records of persecution, torture, and burning of dissenters. Calvin, the spiritual father of Puritanism, burned Michael Servetus at the stake in Geneva. The New England Primer, much used in the early New England schools, contains among other 'milk for babes' a picture of John Rogers, the martyr, burning at the stake, while his wife and nine children looked on. The laws of the Boston colony in Massachusetts provided imprisonment, flogging, the pillory, cropping the ears, and boring the tongue with a hot iron as punishments for the Quakers, who came into the colony and refused to leave. These penalties did not deter them from coming, and three of their number, William Robinson, Marmaduke Stevenson, and Mary Dyer were hanged on Boston Common in 1659."

New Haven was first settled as an independent colony. "It was founded in 1638 by a company of wealthy London merchants with their families and their pastor, John Davenport, an eloquent preacher. Other settlements were made nearby, notably Milford, Guilford, Branford, and South-hold on Long Island—towns all united in the colony of New Haven." \* \* \*

"When Charles II came back to the throne of England in 1660, all who had taken part in bringing his father to the block, were branded as regicides. Two of them, Goffe and Whalley, had escaped to America, and a royal order was sent to Boston for their arrest. They fled to New Haven, where they were concealed \* \* \* and evaded capture. But because the people of New Haven had concealed the fugitives the king \* \* \* took away its independence \* \* \* and placed it under the charter of Connecticut. \* \* \* The leaders of the colony, including Davenport, were disgusted, and out of this dissension and split in New Haven came the settlement of Newark."

The leaders of this new movement were Robert Treat and JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE. As early as 1661, when New Jersey was a part of the New Netherlands under the Dutch, they had treated with Governor Stuyvesant for the cession of a colony at Newark, but the English seized New Netherlands in 1664 and these plans came to naught.

In 1665 a committee, consisting of Robert Treat and John Gregory, of the New Haven colony, were sent to confer with Governor Philip Carteret, of New Jersey, at Elizabethtown. They were pleased with their reception, and sailing up Newark Bay and the Passaic river were at once captivated by the beauty of the present site of the city, and selected it forthwith. "One year later, in 1666, on the favorable report of Captain Treat the first group of settlers under his leadership left the town of Milford and landed on the shores of the Passaic in the middle of May. In this way was founded the town of Newark, where the founders would endeavor to 'carry on their spiritual concernments as well as their civil and town affairs according to God, and a Godly Government.' "

"The Newark Puritans were fortunate in their leaders. By far the greatest man among them was Robert Treat. It is not too much to say that New Haven Puritans would never have emigrated to New Jersey without the leadership of this daring spirit. His life in the new world is one long record of splendid public service, both as a soldier and civil administrator, and ending only when the infirmities of eighty-five years began to tell upon him. He was the best Indian fighter in New England, and did much to save Massachusetts and Connecticut from extermination by the savages. As a civil officer he proved himself master in many a crisis that threatened the colony. He was a rare combination of soldier and statesman. Cromwell could lead armies to victory, but could not govern a state. These two talents are not often united in one person as they were in Robert Treat."

Captain Treat was of good family. His father, always designated by the title of "Mr.," was a man of mark in New England. His mother's family were of Huguenot descent—a strain

of blood that has shown good and red in American history. Although not a college graduate, he had some classical education, as is shown by his free use of Latin quotations in his letters.

Before leading his band of exiles to New Jersey he held high office in New England, where men of force and leadership were not lacking. The United Colonies of New England were governed by a board consisting of two commissioners from each colony. Captain Treat was a member of this board. A side of his character was shown when the messengers of the King, Charles II, came to New Haven to arrest the regicides, Goffe and Whalley, in hiding there. Captain Treat, as magistrate, had to issue a warrant for their arrest and command diligent search to be made for them, while tradition has it that for some time they lived in the cellar of Captain Treat's house, and were fed and cared for by him.

Four years before coming to Newark he was in negotiation with Stuyvesant, the Dutch governor of New Amsterdam, for land in New Jersey then under Dutch rule. Even after he had started with his little band of twenty families from Milford to settle in New Jersey, Connecticut elected him Assistant Governor, while he was almost continuously in office in the colony up to the time of his departure.

Immediately on the landing of the little company on the banks of the Passaic on that morning in May, 1666, the party was confronted by a band of Hackensack Indians, claiming that the land was theirs, and warning the settlers off as trespassers. There was nothing to do but to re-embark, and head for Elizabethtown Point for an interview with Governor Carteret, who had not purchased from the Indians the title to the Newark land, and refused to do so. Whereupon the colonists said they would go back to Connecticut. Governor Carteret, however, loath to lose such worthy settlers, insisted on their making terms with the Indians for their lands. Accordingly Captain Treat headed a party, including his son, John Treat, and JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE, that struggled through swamps to Hackensack, where they were entertained by Perro, the Sachem, in his wigwam for two days. An agreement was made with Perro for

the sale of what is now practically Essex county. The purchase price agreed on was a unique assortment of powder, guns, swords, blankets, breeches, coats, lead, knives, hoes, beer, and rum, estimated to be worth in all \$700. Of that splendid domain bought from Perro Newark retains to-day only a small part.

"At the first town meeting held shortly after the colonists landed, Robert Treat was chosen to act in settling the place and keeping order. He was also given the first choice of town lots and chose the north end of the block bounded by Market, Broad and Mulberry Streets. The First Presbyterian Church stands on the 'Treat Home Lott'. The Treat tablet is affixed to the Kinney Building, corner Broad and Market streets, and commemorates the site and the owner. But his chief monument is the foundation plan of Newark with its Broad Street, and triangular parks in the centre of the city.

"During the six years he remained in the settlement there is no activity of the town government, in which he did not bear the chief part. His name heads the list of signatures to the agreement that no person be admitted freeman with the right to vote or hold office 'except such planters as were church members.' When the question of the boundary between Elizabeth and Newark was to be settled, he was appointed head of the commission to fix it. The event will be commemorated by a tablet to be erected in May by the South Side High School on 'Divident Hill,' where the commissioners from the two towns met, prayed, and fixed the boundary. When members of the First Provincial Assembly of New Jersey were to be chosen to represent Newark, Robert Treat and JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE were elected. When the town needed a gristmill, Treat and Sergeant Richard Harrison built one. He was a man to do things. His splendid executive ability, his unerring judgment, his mastery of men appeared before coming to New Jersey, shone all through the six years he remained the leader of the colony here, and after his return to Connecticut blazoned his name high among the illustrious names of New England.

"Some are disposed to belittle him in Newark, because he de-

serted the struggling settlement that he had led out into the wilderness, and returned to Connecticut to take office under a government, which he had condemned, as a 'Christless and profane' democracy. The answer to this contention is found in the conditions prevailing in New England at the time of his return. It is almost certain that he did not intend to abandon Newark, but a grave crisis had arisen in New England, where the settlers were compelled to fight for their lives against as crafty and bloodthirsty a band of savages as ever threatened the white man's existence in America. \* \* \*

"It is not strange therefore that Captain Treat felt the need there greater than here. He was appointed Major of the Connecticut troops, then the highest military office in the colonies. For the next three years he was in the thick of the King Philip's war (1675-1678). Spartan courage could go no farther than the little army of Connecticut soldiers under his command, that slept all night in an open field, without other blanket than a 'moist fleece of snow,' in order that they might be ready in the morning to rush the Narragansett stronghold in the swamp. He was never caught in the trap of an ambush, the Indians' main strategy, by which they had annihilated many a detachment of Colonial troops. It was 'war to the knife and knife to the hilt.' (Quarter was not given by the Colonials any more than by the savages. Time and again the story of the battle ends with the statement: 'The captives (Indians) were all killed.') \* \* \* Merwin says of Captain Treat: 'His courage through King Philip's war made him a popular hero, and by his men he was given the name of 'The Good Angel.'

"The limits of this sketch forbid more than mention of Captain Treat's election as Governor of Connecticut; his service in settling the disputed boundaries between his colony, New York, and Rhode Island; his wily diplomacy, when James II undertook to recall the charter of Connecticut; and his outwitting Andros, when he came with troops to Hartford to demand the surrender of the charter; his standing off Fletcher, who appeared in New York with the King's commission to command the New York and New England militia; his presi-

dency of the United Colonies of New England in 1684; and finally his retiring at the age of eighty-four years, after having served as Governor and Deputy for thirty years. His life was filled to the end with exciting incidents, calling for the exercise of the most varied talents. But in every crisis he was more than master. He could perform justly, skillfully and magnanimously all the offices, both public and private, of peace and war.

"In 1889 Milford, Conn., celebrated her two hundred and fiftieth anniversary by erecting a memorial tower in honor of Governor Treat. Newark's two hundred and fiftieth celebration will not be complete without some lasting and fitting memorial of her distinguished founder. \* \* \*

"Another leader was JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE, whose name frequently appears in colonial records of Connecticut and New Haven. His family was of ancient lineage. He was one of the founders of the New Haven Colony, a member of the General Court with Robert Treat, and a magistrate in both New Haven and Branford. He heads the list of the Branford group, who signed "the fundamental agreement." His name was first in a list of signers for the organization of the first church in Newark. He and Robert Treat were the first magistrates of the town. He was a surveyor and a merchant. He, together with Robert Treat, undoubtedly had much to do in planning Newark's streets. He was a founder of Branford, of New Haven, and of Newark. His home lot in Newark was at the corner of Market and High streets. St. Paul's Church stands on the sight. He, with three others, acquired the land in the center of what is now Montclair, which at one time was known as Cranetown.

"His descendants are numbered by thousands in Newark and this part of New Jersey. He was first on the list of deputies to New Jersey's General Assembly for a number of years. After the return of Treat to Connecticut he was the first citizen after the pastor. The town minute book shows that JASPER CRANE's half bushel measure was made the standard in all questions of barter and fair dealing."

(The following comments upon the settlement of Newark, while wandering somewhat from our subject, are too interesting to omit):

“In discussing the question, ‘What Manner of People Settled Newark?’ it is necessary to state in the first place that they were Puritans, an intensely religious sect, that has left a deeper impress on American life and institutions than any other group of settlers on the continent [Virginia people may be disposed to dispute this]. The tracks of the Puritan are found to-day in all the great states from Massachusetts to Oregon. \* \* \*

“The Newark founders were of the highest type of pioneers. \* \* \*

“The first settlers, numbering thirty men and women, under the leadership of Captain Treat, came up the Passaic river in May, 1666, and landed not far from Saybrook Place, where the Committee of One Hundred (1916) is planning to erect a monument. No sooner had Captain Treat and his party begun to disembark than the Indians appeared, claiming to be the owners of the land, and warning the newcomers away. The story of the purchase from the Indians for a mere song, of what is now substantially Essex county, has already been told. At the very beginning of the settlement it is pleasant to read this account of fair dealing with the natives. In fact the history of New Jersey’s dealings with the aborigines is a clean page in a long, black record of Colonial and national dishonor. In 1832 a Delaware Indian in a petition to the New Jersey legislature in behalf of his tribe, said: ‘Not an acre of our land have you taken but by our consent; nothing save benisons can fall upon you from the lips of a Leni Lenappi.’ The Six Nations, in convention in 1769, called New Jersey ‘The Great Doer of Justice.’

“\* \* \* Among the first things done was the allotment of land to the families. \* \* \* The location of each man’s lot among his neighbors was determined by casting lots. But the other settlers permitted Captain Treat to choose his home lot, containing two acres more than any other. This was done out of regard for his personal worth, and their deep sense of obligation to

him. He chose land bounded by Market, Broad, and Mulberry Streets. The First Church stands on the Treat lot. \* \* \*

"The Branford company came a year later than the Milford colonists, and were headed by JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE, and the Rev. Abraham Pierson, pastor of the Branford congregation, which came bodily with its church organization, and became the First Church of Newark. \* \* \*

"There was no persecution in the colony. The citizens were a God fearing, righteous people, kindly in disposition, and charitable in all relations with their neighbors."

These selections constitute the portion of the articles already described, which refer directly to our ancestor JASPER<sup>1</sup> CRANE and his friend and associate, Robert Treat. Other portions of the articles, describing the town government, and conditions, and surroundings are very interesting, but as they are a matter of general history and have no direct reference to our ancestors, the writer thinks it best not to prolong this sketch by including them.

In *Crane Genealogy*, by Hon. Ellery B. Crane, several different pictures are given of the family coat of arms. But we have no means of determining which of these belong to JASPER CRANE and his family, and have concluded not to attempt to present this matter.



# INDEX

Ch. I = Chart I, opp. p. 3.

Ch. III = Chart III, opp. p. 55.

Ch. V = Chart V, opp. p. 91.

PAGE		PAGE
92		Carter, Charles,
Ch. III, 88		Ch. I
Ch. V		Elizabeth <sup>7</sup> ,
Ch. I		Ch. I
Ch. III, 88		John <sup>7</sup> G.,
4, 7		Ch. I
Ch. III, 85		Lucy <sup>7</sup> ,
xi		Ch. I
Ch. V		Cemetery at Paxton,
Ch. V		26
Ch. I, 46		Chapman, James,
Ch. I, 46		Ch. III, 87, 88
Ch. I, 44, 46		James <sup>5</sup> ,
20		Ch. III
Ch. I		Louisa <sup>5</sup> ,
Ch. I		Ch. III
Ch. I		Margaret <sup>5</sup> ,
Ch. I		Ch. III
Ch. I		Mary <sup>5</sup> ,
Ch. I		Ch. III
Ch. I		Ruth <sup>5</sup> ,
Ch. I, 17, 22		Ch. III
Ch. I		Christian, Elizabeth <sup>8</sup> ,
Ch. I		Ch. I
Ch. I		Frank P.,
Ch. I		Ch. I
Ch. I		Clarke, Matthew,
Ch. I		Ch. I, 17, 22
Ch. I		Sarah <sup>2</sup> S.,
Ch. I		17
Ch. I		Conger, Saml. <sup>6</sup> H.,
Ch. I		Ch. V, 95
Ch. I		Crane Family,
Ch. I		89
Ch. I		Crane Family Table,
Ch. I		Ch. V
Ch. I		Crane Coat of Arms,
Ch. I		111
Ch. I		Cranes in America,
Ch. I		95
Ch. I		in England,
Ch. I		91
Ch. I		Crane, Abigail <sup>4</sup> ,
Ch. I		Ch. V
Ch. I		Abigail <sup>3</sup> ,
Ch. I		Ch. V
Ch. V, 97, 99, 100		Azariah <sup>2</sup> ,
Ch. V		Ch. V
Ch. V		Azariah <sup>3</sup> ,
Ch. V		Ch. V
Ch. V		Belle,
Ch. V		97
Ch. V, 95		Benjamin <sup>4</sup> ,
Ch. V		Ch. V
Ch. V		Betsy <sup>5</sup> ,
Ch. V		Ch. V
Ch. V		David <sup>5</sup> ,
Ch. V		Ch. V
Ch. V		David <sup>4</sup> ,
Ch. V		Ch. V
Ch. V, 97, 98		Deliverance <sup>2</sup> ,
Ch. V		Ch. V
Ch. V		Dorcas <sup>4</sup> ,
Ch. V		Ch. V
Ch. V		Elias <sup>5</sup> ,
Ch. V		Ch. V
Ch. V		Elihu <sup>3</sup> ,
Ch. V		Ch. V
Ch. V		Ezekiel <sup>4</sup> ,

	PAGE		PAGE
Crane, Sir Francis,	92	Crane, Sallie <sup>a</sup> ,	Ch. V, 101
Hannah,	Ch. III, 100, 101	Stephen,	95, 96
Hannah <sup>2</sup> ,	Ch. V	Rev. Thomas,	93
Hannah <sup>3</sup> ,	Ch. V	Sir Thomas,	92
Hannah <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. V, 91	Timothy <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. V
Henry,	95, 96	William,	91
Hugo,	93	Cranes of Chilton,	92
Isaac <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. V	of Cornwall,	93
Israel <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. V	of Suffolk,	91
James <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. V	Curling, ——,	Ch. III
Jane <sup>3</sup> ,	Ch. V	Davenport, Rev. John,	97, 104
Jasper <sup>1</sup> ,	Ch. V, 86, 96 & f.	Davison, James,	16
Jasper <sup>2</sup> ,	Ch. V, 97 & f.	Josiah,	16, 17
Jasper <sup>3</sup> ,	Ch. V	Robert,	23
Jedediah <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. V	Dickinson, Mary,	Ch. V
Jerusha <sup>1</sup> ,	Ch. V	Dill, ——,	Ch. III
Joanna <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. V	Domesday Book,	61
Johanna <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. V	Dunderdale, ——,	Ch. III
John,	95	Durbin, Augusta,	Ch. III, 88
John <sup>2</sup> ,	97, 98, 100	Duchess Gunnora,	77
John <sup>3</sup> ,	Ch. V	Ermengarde,	62, 63
Jonathan <sup>3</sup> ,	Ch. V	Finney, Benj. W.,	Ch. I, 36, 37
Joseph <sup>3</sup> ,	Ch. V	Catherine <sup>5</sup> S.,	Ch. I
Joseph <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. V	Ennion <sup>5</sup> W.,	Ch. I
Josiah <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. V	Julia <sup>5</sup> L.,	Ch. I
Josiah <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. V	Louisa <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. I
Lois <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. V	Fitzgerald, Doreen,	Ch. I
Mary <sup>3</sup> ,	Ch. V	Flattel, Gerard,	62
Mary <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. V	Forbes, Alexander,	Ch. III
Mary <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. V	Cleveland <sup>3</sup> ,	Ch. III
Mercy <sup>2</sup> ,	Ch. V, 97	Maria <sup>3</sup> ,	Ch. III
Micah <sup>2</sup> ,	Ch. V, 97	Sarah <sup>3</sup> ,	Ch. III
Nathl. <sup>3</sup> ,	Ch. V	Founding of Newark, N. J.,	103
Nicholas,	93	Galt, William,	Ch. I
Obadiah <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. V	William <sup>7</sup> ,	Ch. I
Patience,	Ch. V, 86, 100	Genito,	33
Phineas,	Ch. V	Gibbs, Alfred W.,	Ch. I, 44, 46
Phoebe,	Ch. V	Marianne S.,	Ch. III, 47
Richard, Sir,	92	Gifford, Giffard, Gyffarde,	
Richard <sup>3</sup> ,	Ch. V	Agnes <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III
Robert, Sir,	92	Alexander <sup>3</sup> ,	Ch. III, 87
Sarah <sup>3</sup> ,	Ch. V	Anna <sup>3</sup> ,	Ch. III, 87
Sarah <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. V	Archer <sup>1</sup> ,	Ch. III, 55, 85
Sarah <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. V	Archer <sup>2</sup> ,	Ch. III, 85

PAGE	PAGE
Gifford, Giffard, Gyffarde,	Gifford, Giffard, Gyffarde,
Archer <sup>3</sup> ,	Ch. III, 87
Archer <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. III, 88
Archer <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III
Catharine W.,	Ch. I, 28, 33
Catharine <sup>3</sup> W.,	Ch. III, 55, 87
Chas. L. C.,	Ch. I
Charles <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. III
Chas. <sup>4</sup> L. C., Judge,	88
Charles <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III
Charlotte <sup>6</sup> ,	Ch. III
Edmund <sup>7</sup> K.,	Ch. I
Ellen <sup>4</sup> M.,	Ch. III, 88
Ellen and Louisa,	85
F. <sup>4</sup> Louisa,	Ch. III, 88
Frank <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III
Frank <sup>6</sup> W.,	Ch. I
George <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. III, 88
George <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III
Gertrude <sup>7</sup> M.,	Ch. I
Godfrey,	64
Harry E.,	55
Harry <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III
Helen <sup>7</sup> J.,	Ch. I
Helen <sup>7</sup> M.,	Ch. I
John,	Ch. V
John <sup>2</sup> ,	Ch. III, 85, 86, 91, 101
John <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. III, 88
John <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III
L. <sup>4</sup> Charlotte,	Ch. III, 88
Louisa,	91
Mary <sup>3</sup> ,	Ch. III, 87
Mary <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. III, 88
Matoaca <sup>8</sup> ,	Ch. III
Osborne,	58
Oswald <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. III, 88
Oswald <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III
Oswald <sup>6</sup> ,	Ch. I
Patience,	Ch. III
Patience <sup>3</sup> ,	87
Percy <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III
Philip <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. III, 88
Plume <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III
Sarah <sup>3</sup> ,	Ch. III, 87
Susan <sup>2</sup> ,	Ch. III, 85
Susan <sup>3</sup> ,	Ch. III, 87
Susan <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III
Susie <sup>6</sup> V.,	Ch. I
Virginia <sup>6</sup> ,	Ch. III
Virginia <sup>7</sup> ,	Ch. I
Walter <sup>1</sup> ,	55, & f
Walter, of Boyton,	64
Walter <sup>2</sup> ,	62
Walter <sup>3</sup> ,	63
William, (Arch Bishop of	
Rheims),	65
William, Editor,	65
William <sup>2</sup> ,	62
William <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III
William <sup>6</sup> M.,	Ch. III
Gifford Family,	53
Table,	Ch. III, 55
of Brightley,	68
of Brimsfield,	58
of Chillington,	66
Coat of Arms,	74
Four notable houses,	70
Thirty-two families,	71
Baron, of St. Leonards,	68
Giffords in America,	83
in Canada,	84
in England,	55
Giffart, Normandy,	57
Gilmore, ——,	Ch. I
Goldsborough, Katherine,	Ch. I
Gornay, Hugh de,	58
Gunnora, Duchess,	77
Hagan, Catherine,	Ch. I
Harrison, ——,	Ch. V.
Hay, James,	Ch. I.
Heard, ——,	Ch. V.
Henshaw, Myra <sup>7</sup> A.,	Ch. I
Nannie <sup>7</sup> E.,	Ch. I
Robert <sup>7</sup> B.,	Ch. I
John W.,	Ch. I
Hier, Mr.,	19
Hinman, ——,	Ch. V
Hobson, Gertrude S.,	Ch. I
Corydon,	Ch. I

	PAGE		PAGE
Holmes, Dr. S. R.,	Ch. I, 29	Lee, Caleb,	Ch. I, 29
Hooper, Anne	Ch. I	Caleb <sup>5</sup> ,	30
Hopkins, Prof.,	Ch. I, 28	Emma <sup>5</sup> L.,	30
Adelaide <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. I	George <sup>5</sup> L.,	30
Elizabeth <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. I	Hannah <sup>5</sup> M.,	30
Margaretta <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. I	John <sup>5</sup> S.,	30
Horner, John	16	Margaret S.,	29, 30
Huse, Reginald,	Ch. III	Margaret <sup>5</sup> ,	30
Mary <sup>6</sup> .	Ch. III	Maria <sup>5</sup> ,	30
Isaacs, Lila,	Ch. I	Richard <sup>5</sup> H.,	30
Jackson, Helen,	Ch. I	Robert <sup>5</sup> P.,	30
N.,	Ch. III	Thomas <sup>5</sup> C. M.,	30
James, Dr. Lorrimer,	Ch. III	William <sup>5</sup> C.,	30
Uriah,	Ch. III	Lewis, Gertrude <sup>6</sup> ,	Ch. I
Job's Well, Wales,	55	Gifford <sup>5</sup> V.,	Ch. I
Johnson, Chas. <sup>5</sup> S.,	Ch. III	Louise <sup>6</sup> ,	Ch. I
Gifford <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. III	Rev. Jefferson, Ch. I, 29, 36, 37	
Harriet <sup>4</sup> ,	88	Powhatan <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. I
Helen <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. III	Virginia <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. I
Jane <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III	Logan, Sadie,	Ch. I
Louisa <sup>4</sup> ,	88	Lowrey, Elizabeth,	Ch. I
Mary <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. III, 88	Lyon, Abigail,	Ch. V
Mary <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III	McIntire, Jane W.,	Ch. III, 88
Robert,	Ch. III, 87	McKown, ——,	Ch. I
Sarah <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. III, 88	Anna <sup>4</sup> M.,	29
Sarah <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III	McVeigh, Charlotte R.,	26
Susan <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. III	Llewellyn W.,	Ch. I
Susan <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III	Llewellyn <sup>6</sup> W.,	Ch. I, 55, 45
—.	Ch. V	Mallory, ——,	Ch. III
Jones, Carter <sup>7</sup> W.,	Ch. I	Mason, Cyane <sup>6</sup> ,	Ch. I
Kate,	45	Dr. H. Norton,	Ch. I
Kate <sup>4</sup> S.,	Ch. I	John <sup>6</sup> K.,	Ch. I
Katherine <sup>7</sup> S.,	Ch. I	Lockert <sup>6</sup> B.,	Ch. I
T. Norman,	Ch. I	Maxwell, ——,	Ch. III, 88
T. Norman <sup>7</sup> , Jr.,	Ch. I, 44, 45	Gifford <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III
Kingsland, Fannie S.,	Ch. I	Gordon <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III
Mary,	Ch. III	Meade, Marianne,	Ch. I, 37
Landrum, Lucy C.,	Ch. I, 44	William E.,	Ch. I, 45
Lawrence, ——,	Ch. V	Middlesex Co., N. J.,	21
Lassiter, Anna,	Ch. I	Miles, Walter H.,	Ch. I, 44
Layton, L. Lee,	Ch. I, 47	Miller, Anna <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. III, 88
Lee, Anne <sup>5</sup> W.,	30	Anna <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III
Andrew <sup>5</sup> J.,	30	Archer <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. III, 88
Anne <sup>5</sup> E.,	30	Archer <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III

	PAGE		PAGE
Miller, Charles <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III	Priest, Hannah,	18, &c.
Cleveland <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III	Randolph, Charlotte F.,	Ch. I, 37
Edward <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III	family;	43
Frank <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III	Rawlins, Edward A.,	Ch. I
William <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. III, 88	Edward <sup>7</sup> W.,	Ch. I
William P.,	Ch. III, 87	Gay <sup>6</sup> B.,	Ch. I
Minto, Prof..	Ch. I, 22, 33	Lilian <sup>6</sup> B.,	Ch. I
Mitcheson, Fannie <sup>5</sup>	Ch. III	Louis <sup>6</sup> M.,	Ch. I
Helen <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. III	Louise <sup>7</sup> M.,	Ch. I
Rev. Robert,	Ch. III, 88	Martha <sup>7</sup> W.,	Ch. I
Robert <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. III	Roberts, ——,	Ch. I
Munroe, M.,	Ch. III	Manning <sup>6</sup> ,	Ch. I
Morehead, Eliz.,	Ch. I	Robinson, Bruce,	Ch. I
Murray, Cornelius <sup>5</sup> S.,	Ch. I	Rohais,	62
Gay <sup>5</sup> B.,	Ch. I	Saint Memin, artist,	27
Helen <sup>5</sup> M.,	Ch. I	Scudder, Jacob,	16, 17
Louisa <sup>5</sup> S.,	Ch. I	Joseph,	16
Mary <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. I	Dr. Joseph,	25, 33
Murray, Matoaca,	Ch. III, 88	William,	17
Nannie <sup>5</sup> G.,	Ch. I	Selden, Channing <sup>5</sup> G.,	Ch. I
Rebecca <sup>5</sup> B.,	Ch. I	Charles,	Ch. I, 36, 37
William,	Ch. I, 36, 37	Charles <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. I
Neilson, Bayard,	Ch. III	Harriett <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. I
Helena <sup>6</sup> ,	Ch. III	John <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. I
Ruth <sup>6</sup> R.,	Ch. III	Lily <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. I
Nelson, Dr. William,	13, 14, 25	Mary <sup>5</sup> ,	Ch. I
Newark, Founding of	103	Simpson, John S.,	Ch. I
Niel, Maude <sup>6</sup>	Ch. III	Sallie <sup>7</sup> W.,	Ch. I
Willie <sup>6</sup> ,	Ch. III	Skelton, Lady Adair,	9
H.,	Ch. III	Alexander,	28
Nolting, Susie,	Ch. I	Amanda <sup>4</sup> P.,	Ch. I
Ogden, Robert,	Ch. V	Americus <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. I, 29
Osman, ——,	Ch. I, 29	Anna,	23
Passamore, Emma,	Ch. III, 88	Ann <sup>6</sup> ,	Ch. I, 30
Paxton,	33, &c.	Anna <sup>4</sup> M.,	Ch. I
Peebles, ——,	Ch. III, 88	Anne <sup>5</sup> A.,	Ch. I, 44
Helena <sup>6</sup> ,	Ch. III	B. <sup>5</sup> Meade,	Ch. I, 44, 46
Julia <sup>6</sup> ,	Ch. III	Catherine <sup>4</sup> G.,	Ch. I, 36, 37
Dr. Robt. S. J.,	Ch. III	Catharine <sup>5</sup> G.,	Ch. I, 44, 45
Pinkerton, Amanda <sup>4</sup> ,	30	Catherine <sup>7</sup> H.,	Ch. I
Plum, John,	Ch. V	C. <sup>8</sup> Ogie,	Ch. I
Plumb, Hannah,	29	Sir Charles,	9
Pool, ——,	Ch. V	Dr. Charles,	9
Preface,	xiii	Charles <sup>4</sup> ,	Ch. I, 29

PAGE	PAGE
Skelton, Charlotte <sup>5</sup> R., Ch. I, 44	Skelton, Maria <sup>6</sup> W., Ch. I
Daniel J., 5	Marianne <sup>5</sup> E., Ch. I, 44, 46
Edward O., 11	M. <sup>6</sup> Gertrude, Ch. I
Elise <sup>5</sup> M., Ch. I, 44, 46	Marie <sup>7</sup> J., Ch. I
Eliza <sup>4</sup> L., Ch. I, 29	Mary, 15, 22
Elizabeth, 23, 24	Mary <sup>2</sup> , Ch. I, 17
Elizabeth <sup>2</sup> Ch. I, 17, 22	Mary <sup>4</sup> G., Ch. I, 36, 37
Elizabeth <sup>3</sup> , Ch. I, 28	Osman <sup>4</sup> , Ch. I, 29
Dr. Ennion <sup>3</sup> W., Ch. I, Ch. III, 11, 21, 28, 33, 35, 87	Richard, Sheriff, 3
Ennion <sup>5</sup> W., Ch. I, 12, 44	Rebecca <sup>4</sup> M., Ch. I, 36, 37
Esther, 24	Robert, 14
Frank <sup>6</sup> , Ch. I	Rev. Samuel, 8
Gennet, 15	Sarah, 22
Hannah, 17, 19, 23	Sarah <sup>2</sup> , Ch. I
Hannah <sup>4</sup> P., Ch. I	Sarah <sup>4</sup> C., Ch. I, 36, 37
Sir John, 9	Susan S., 28
John, Sheriff, 3	Susannah, 23
John, Poet Laureate, 3, 4	Thomas, 15, 24
Dr. John, of Plymouth, England, 7	Thomas <sup>2</sup> , Ch. I, 17, 22
John, 15	Thomas <sup>3</sup> , Ch. I
Dr. John <sup>4</sup> G., picture, frontispiece, Ch. I, 25, 30, 37, 39, 101	Thomas <sup>3</sup> S., 30
John <sup>5</sup> G., Ch. I, 44	Walter <sup>3</sup> , Ch. I, 22, 30
John <sup>6</sup> G., Ch. I	William <sup>4</sup> , Ch. I, 29
Dr. John P., Ch. I, 28, 29	William <sup>5</sup> O., Ch. I, 7, 44, 46
Judge Joseph <sup>1</sup> , Ch. I, 12, 14, 15, 16	Skelton Abbey, 9
will of, do, 17	Skeltons of Armathwaite, 3
Joseph <sup>2</sup> , Ch. I, 17, 22	Skelton authors, 50
Joseph <sup>3</sup> , Ch. I, 30	Skeltons of Branthwaite, 3
Joseph H., 27	Skelton coat of arms, title page, 49
Josiah <sup>2</sup> , Ch. I, 14, 22	Skeltons in England, 3
Mrs. Josiah <sup>2</sup> , 26, 28	in New Jersey, 11
Josiah <sup>3</sup> , Ch. I, 28	in Virginia, 33
Josiah <sup>4</sup> , Ch. I, 29	Skelton Family Table, Ch. I
Julian <sup>5</sup> F., Ch. I, 44, 47	Skeltons of High-house, 4
Landrum <sup>6</sup> , Ch. I	Skelton's Mills, 19
Louisa <sup>4</sup> , Ch. I, 29	Skeltons of James City Co., Va., 11
Louisa <sup>4</sup> S., Ch. I, 36, 37	Skelton, Origin of name, 51
Lucy <sup>6</sup> S., Ch. I	Skeltons, of Papcastle, 5
Margaret <sup>4</sup> , Ch. I	Smith, Charlotte <sup>6</sup> , Ch. III
Maria <sup>5</sup> W., Ch. I, 44	Kate <sup>6</sup> , Ch. III
	Robert <sup>6</sup> , Ch. III
	Uselma <sup>4</sup> , Ch. III
	Uselma, Ch. III

PAGE	PAGE
Smith, Willie <sup>4</sup> , Ch. III	Williams, Berkeley <sup>7</sup> , Ch. I
Steele, Hulda, Ch. I	Charles <sup>7</sup> , Ch. I
Stokes, Maude, Ch. I	Charles <sup>7</sup> W., Ch. I
Stony Brook, 20	Charlotte <sup>6</sup> R., Ch. I
Stribling, James W., Ch. I	Charlotte <sup>7</sup> R., Ch. I
Matoaca <sup>7</sup> W., Ch. I	Cyane <sup>6</sup> D., Ch. I
Survival of Norman Families, 79	Cyane <sup>7</sup> , Ch. I
Swaine, Joanna, Ch. V, 99, 100	Daniel <sup>7</sup> L., Ch. I
Capt. Samuel, Ch. V, 100	Dorothy <sup>7</sup> , Ch. I
Tatum, Charles <sup>8</sup> , Ch. I	E. <sup>6</sup> Randolph, Ch. I
Constance <sup>6</sup> P., Ch. I	E. <sup>7</sup> Randolph, Ch. I
Dr. Herbert, Ch. I	Elizabeth <sup>7</sup> R., Ch. I
Herbert <sup>6</sup> , Ch. I	Dr. Ennion <sup>6</sup> G., Ch. I
L. B., Ch. I	Ennion <sup>7</sup> , Ch. I
Mary <sup>6</sup> S., Ch. I	Fielding <sup>7</sup> L., Ch. I
Peebles <sup>6</sup> , Ch. I	Francis <sup>7</sup> , Ch. I
Rives <sup>6</sup> , Ch. I	Frank <sup>7</sup> McG., Ch. I
Thurmond, Kate, Ch. I	George <sup>7</sup> , Ch. I
Tongue, Rev. Thos. O., Ch. I	Hubert <sup>7</sup> L., Ch. I
Treat, Joanna, 99, 103	Hulda <sup>7</sup> , Ch. I
Mary, Ch. V	Margaret <sup>7</sup> P., Ch. I
Robert, 98, 99, 103, 105 & f.	John L., Ch. I, 44, 45
Vial, Dr. W. P., 33	John <sup>7</sup> L., Ch. I
Waldron, Catharine, Ch. III, 85	John <sup>7</sup> P., Ch. I
Washington, ——, Ch. III	John <sup>7</sup> R., Ch. I
Watkins, Rebecca, Ch. I	John <sup>6</sup> S., Ch. I, 45
Wellford, Elsie C., Ch. I, 45	John <sup>7</sup> S., Ch. I
Wheeler, ——, Ch. V	Langbourne <sup>6</sup> M., Ch. I
White, Elizabeth H., Ch. I	Langbourne <sup>7</sup> M., Ch. I
Dr. Thomas, Ch. I	Lewis C., Ch. I
Whitaker, Benjamin, Ch. III, 87	Lewis <sup>7</sup> C., Ch. I
Henry <sup>4</sup> , Ch. III, 88	Maria <sup>6</sup> W., Ch. I
William <sup>4</sup> , Ch. III, 88	Maria <sup>7</sup> W., Ch. I
Durbin <sup>5</sup> , Ch. III	Maude <sup>7</sup> , Ch. I
Wiley, Arthur <sup>6</sup> S., Ch. I	Otto <sup>7</sup> N., Ch. I
Dr. John B., Ch. I	Peyton <sup>7</sup> R., Ch. I
John <sup>6</sup> F., Ch. I	Richard <sup>7</sup> B., Ch. I
John <sup>7</sup> F., Ch. I	R. <sup>6</sup> Lancaster, Ch. I
Mary <sup>6</sup> M., Ch. I	R. <sup>7</sup> Lancaster, Ch. I
Matoaca <sup>6</sup> G., Ch. I	Susanne <sup>7</sup> , Ch. I
Sally <sup>6</sup> , Ch. I	W. <sup>6</sup> Berkeley, Ch. I
Willard, Rev. J., 87	Virginia <sup>7</sup> L., Ch. I
Williams, Anna <sup>7</sup> H., Ch. I	William the Conqueror, Ch. IV, 55 & f.
Anne <sup>7</sup> , Ch. I	Wright, Mary, Ch. I, 21, 22, 25
Armstead <sup>7</sup> , Ch. I	



















